完全復刻版

KC・DX
360

完全
復刻版

あしたのジョー 6

KC

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや

★★★★★★★

〝あ　あしたへの橋がかかったあ～～っ〟悲願のプロ拳闘界進出を果たした、拳キチの号泣。晴れの門出に、ジョーの血が、夢が、狂おしく宿敵力石徹を呼ぶ！　感動の迫力巨編第六弾！

★★★★★★★

オリジナルデザイン／水野石文
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矢吹丈――。かれは東光少年院きってのあばれ者だったが、そのすぐれた腕力を見込まれ、元ボクサーの丹下段平からボクシングの指導を受けていた。

院のボス力石徹は、元プロボクサーの六回戦ボーイで、丈とはことごとに対立し、たがいに出所後、プロのリング上で対決を約束していた。

やがて力石は出所し、富豪の白木氏の援助の下にリングにカムバックし、花々しい活躍をはじめたが、つづいて出所した丈は、段平の作った丹下拳闘クラブがボクシング協会からみとめられず、プロボクサーへの道をとざされてしまった。

折からはじまった全日本新人王決定戦――。丈は、心にある策をひめて、会場の後楽園ホールへ乗りこんだ……。

★前巻までのあらすじ★

YABUKI
...
AH
...

HE
...
YOUKO!

HEH
HEH
...

AH!

HEY, RIKIISHI!

THE FIGHT'S STARTED!

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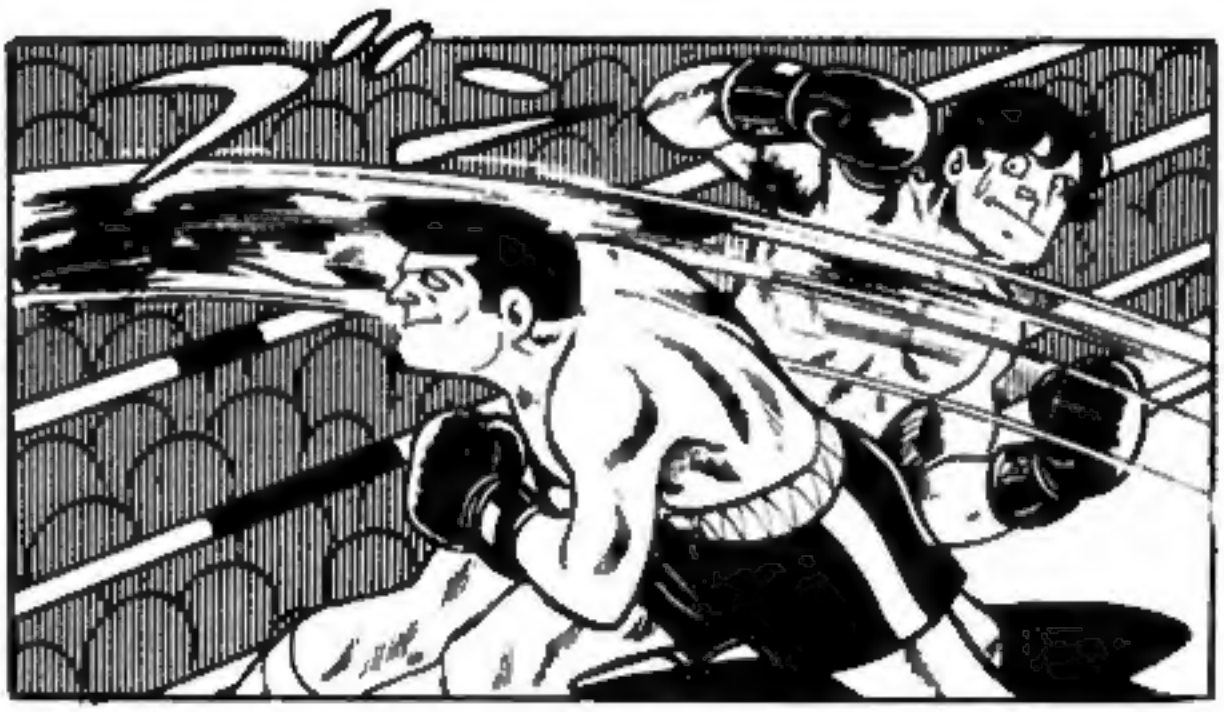

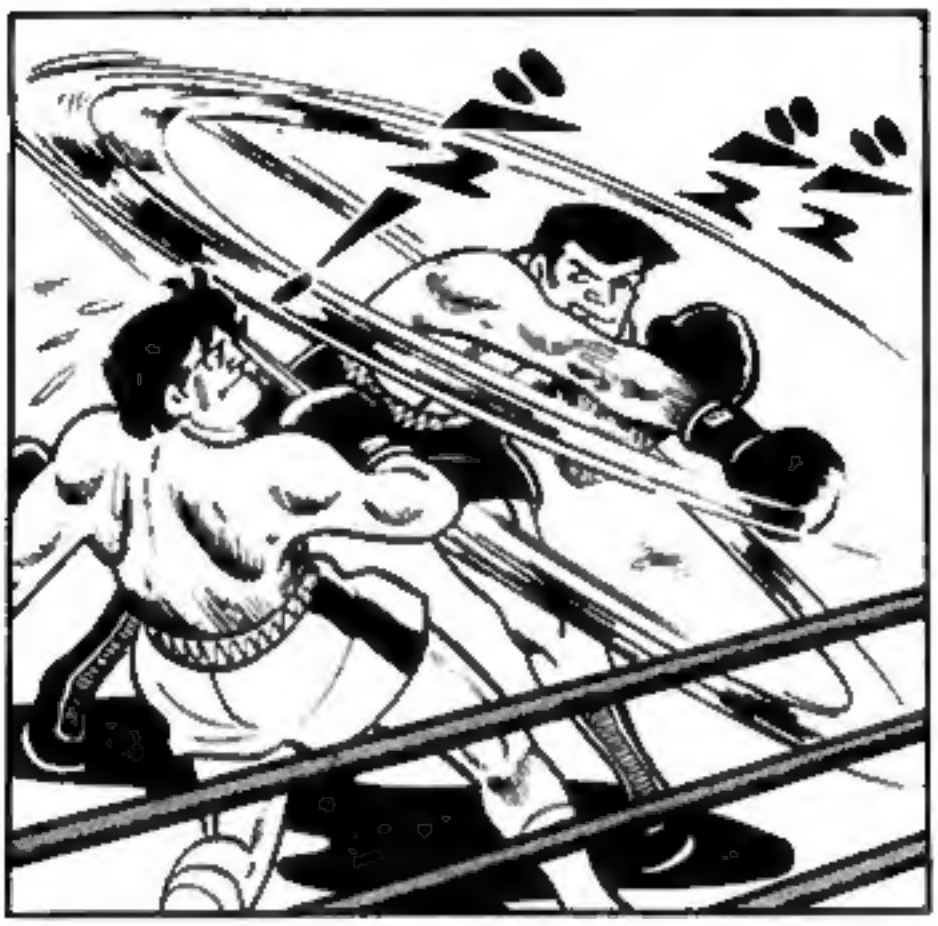
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T-THERE APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH RIKIISHI! IT SEEMS THAT HE DIDN'T HEAR THE STARTING BELL RING.
HACHISUKA IS COMING OUT VERY STRONG!

C'MON! GET A GRIP!

WHAT'S WRONG RIKIISHI!?

DON'T JUST STAND THERE AND TAKE HIS PUNCHES! THIS AIN'T LIKE YA!

HEH HEH ...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AWAY IN A FIGHT FOR!?

W-WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING, YOU IDIOT!? COME ON RIKIISHI!

OOF!

AH!

UGH ...

UGH ...

AH ...

JUST HAD HIS STRAIGHT COUNTERED BY RIKIISHI'S HUGE BODY BLOW PUNCH! THAT HAD TO HURT!

HACHISUKA, WHO WAS ON THE OFFENSIVE UNTIL NOW,

RIKIISHI HAS OVERTURNED THE MATCH! IT'S HACHISUKA WHO'S ON THE COMPLETE DEFENSIVE NOW!

RIKIISHI TRIES TO PUNCH OVER HACHISUKA'S GUARD.

ALL HE CAN DO IS CLAMP TIGHT LIKE A SHELL AND BEAR RIKIISHI'S CONTINUOUS BARRAGE.

UGH ...

AHH ...

INSTEAD OF AIMING FOR SOMEPLACE CRITICAL, HE'S JUST USING BRUTE FORCE! HE'S LIKE A VIOLENT STORM OF HAMMER PUNCHES OUT THERE!

RIKIISHI'S SEEMS TO BE COMPLETELY IGNORING HACHISUKA'S COVER!

N-NO!

AGH ...

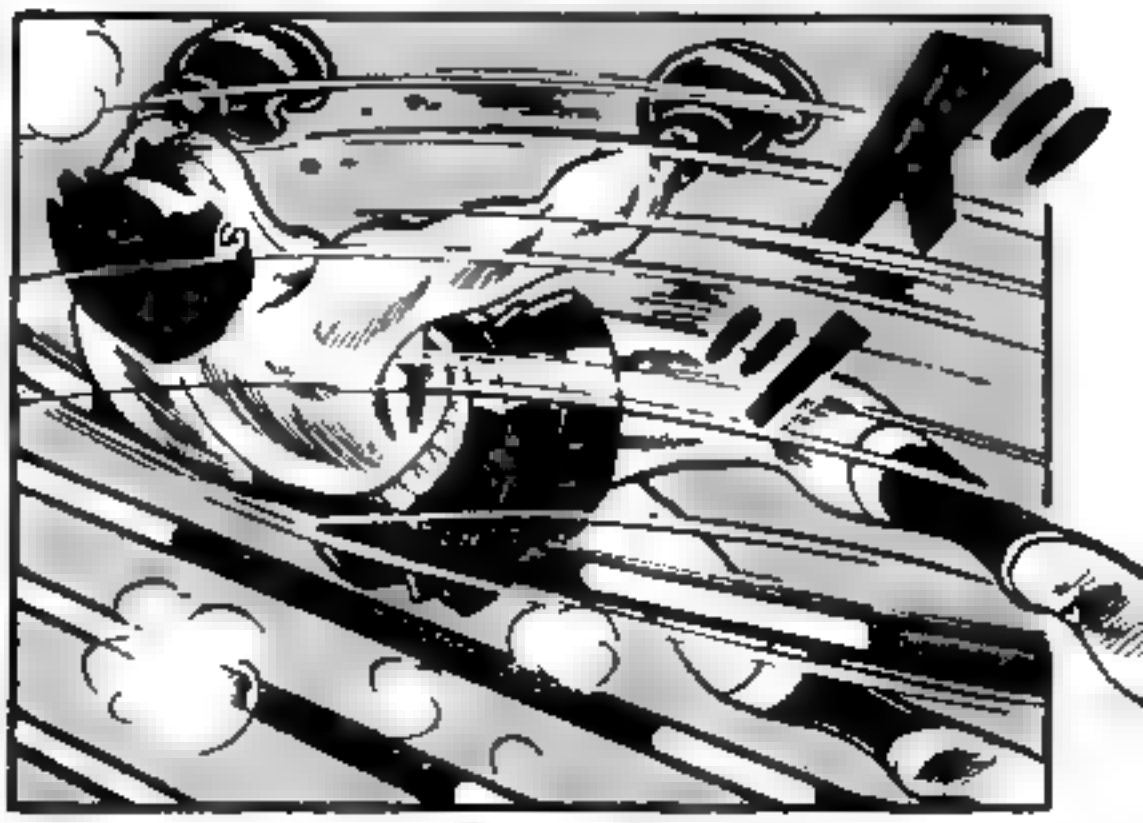
UGH!

HEH ...

AHH ...!

DRO

FLIP
UGH
...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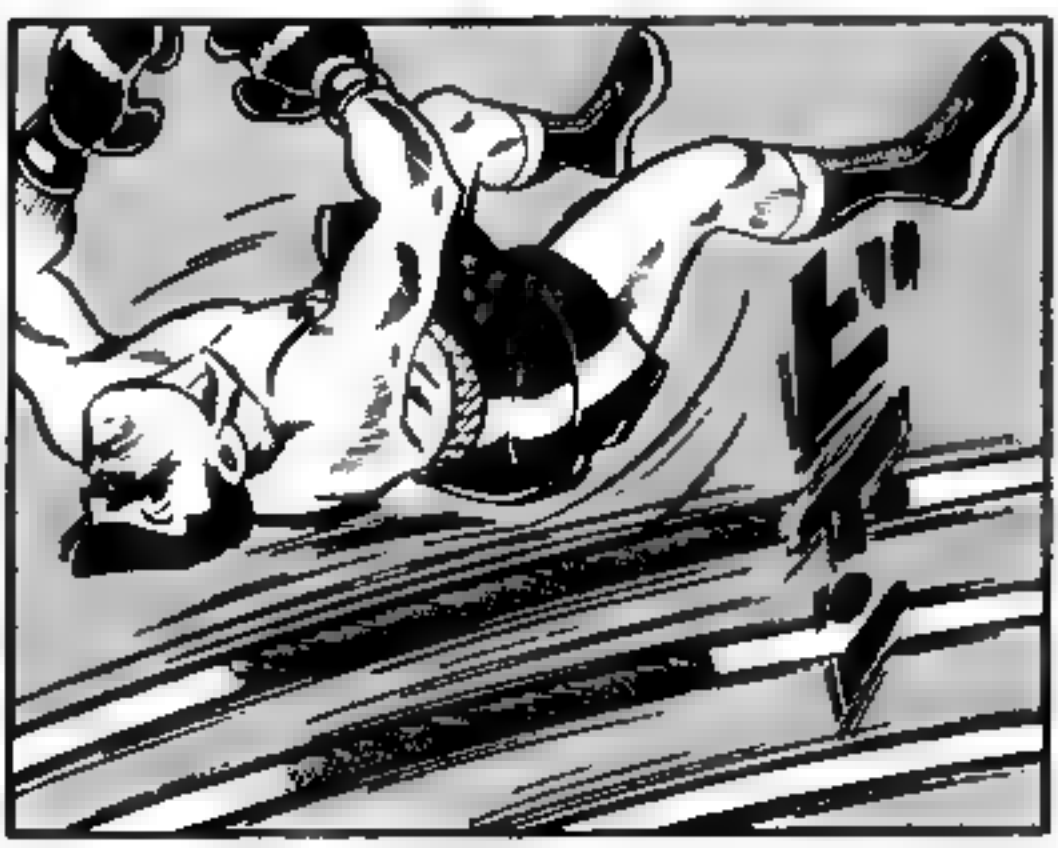
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BACK TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNER!

A-AGH!

HACHISUKA HAS BEEN COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY FROM THE RING!

HA ...

HACHISUKA!

4!

5!

A KILLER PUNCH BY RIKIISHI!

A ...

HE... HE CAN'T SEEM TO STAND UP AT ALL!

6!

7!

RIKIISHI WINS BY KO!

COUNT OUT!

RIKIISHI ...
HAHA! WAY TO GO!
HE DROPPED HACHISUKA LIKE AN OLD SACK OF POTATOES!
A-AMAZING!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A FIERCE KILLER BLOW BEFORE!
TALK ABOUT POWERFUL PUNCHES!
THAT'S RIKIISHI FOR YA!

AND RIKIISHI ALREADY WINS BY A K.O.
INCREDIBLE! BARELY 54 SECONDS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BELL RANG,

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE THERE'S A CERTAIN DIFFERENCE?

BUT JUST HOW DOES HE COMPARE WITH WOLF KANAGUSHI WHO ALSO WON HIS ROOKIE TITLE?

R-RIKIISH HAS TAKEN THE ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE OF THE FEATHERWEIGHT CLASS IN JUST 54 SECONDS.

NO, THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL.

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S LACKING IN THE TECHNICAL SKILLS DEPARTMENT?

THOUGH RIKIISHI'S PUNCHES ARE CERTAINLY VERY POWERFUL, THAT BRUTE-FORCING HIS WAY PAST THE ENEMY'S GUARD SEEMS RATHER CRUDE.

7

7

AND SO, WHAT MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE CRUDE FORCE WAS ACTUALLY SUPPORTED BY HIS CAREFUL CALCULATION. THOSE SMARTS AND THAT POWER IS IDEAL FOR A BOXER!

IT'S JUST THAT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS MATCH, HE GAUGED HIS OPPONENT'S SKILL LEVEL AND FIGURED THAT HE COULD JUST WIN BY PURE FORCE.

RIKIISHI'S A VERY TALENTED BOXER IN BOTH POWER AND SKILL.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING MORE IMPORT-ANT TO FOCUS ON.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT,

THAT'S THE WAY YOU OUGHTA BE, RIKIISHI.

WELL, IT WAS A SPLENDID WIN EITHER WAY.

WIN AND THE WHOLE WORLD'S ON YOUR SIDE ...

THAT WAS A MATCH TO REMEMBER.

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THAT LONG SINCE SHIRAKI GYM WAS ESTABLISHED AND THEY'VE ALREADY PRODUCED A REAL WINNER.

HAHAHA. RIKIISHI NEEDS TO TAKE A SHOWER FIRST SO PLEASE, SAVE THE QUESTIONS FOR LATER.

RIKIISHI, COULD YOU PLEASE FACE THIS WAY AND SMILE FOR THE CAMERA?

TV

CHAIRMAN OOTAKA OF ASIA BOXING.

AH!

REPORTERS, WOULD YOU MIND LETTING ME THROUGH?

WELL WELL, AREN'T YOU VERY POPULAR, MR. SHIRAKI?

WHY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SO YOUR GYM'S BOXER WON WITH A KO IN JUST 54 SECONDS, DID HE?

WOLF KANAGUSHI ... EVEN HIS NAME IS QUITE SPLENDID!

HAHAHA! YES, OF COURSE!

A BOXER OF HIS LEVEL CAN SURELY MAKE THE WORLD RANKINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SPENDING ALL THAT TIME AND MONEY TO ESTABLISH YOUR VERY OWN GYM MUST BE A THING OF THE PAST FOR YOU NOW THAT YOU HAVE RIKIISHI.

HA HA HA HA!

HE'S MY VERY OWN GOLDEN EGG THAT I WENT TO GREAT PAINS IN RAISING.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT MY RIKIISHI. YOUR BOXER WOLF KANAGUSHI IS SPLENDID AS WELL.

THANK YOU, THAT'S VERY FLATTERING.

PLANNING ON PRODUCING YET ANOTHER CHAMPION, ARE YOU? THAT'LL BE ASIA BOXING'S 3RD ONE!

はっはっはっ

NO... GIVE HIM JUST 2 YEARS AND HE'LL BE THE BANTAMWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION.

GIVE HIM JUST 3 YEARS,

ON IT!

THAT'S AN EXCELLENT IDEA! YES, SOMEONE GO BRING WOLF OVER HERE RIGHT AWAY!

YES, THAT'LL REALLY MAKE THE HEAD-LINES!

UMM, WOULD YOU MIND US TAKING A PHOTO OF THE TWO FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONS KANAGUSHI AND RIKIISHI SIDE-BY-SIDE?

SOMETHING ABOUT A TROUBLESOME FAN ...

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING GOING ON IN WOLF'S CHANGING ROOM.

U-UMM ...

HE'S GONNA BE BIG, I TELL YOU!

HA, THAT'S THE ROOKIE CHAMP FOR YA! HE'S ALREADY BEING HOUNDED BY THE FANS.

YES, HE SEEMS TO WANT WOLF TO SIGN SOMETHING FOR HIM NO MATTER WHAT ...

A TROUBLE-SOME FAN ...?

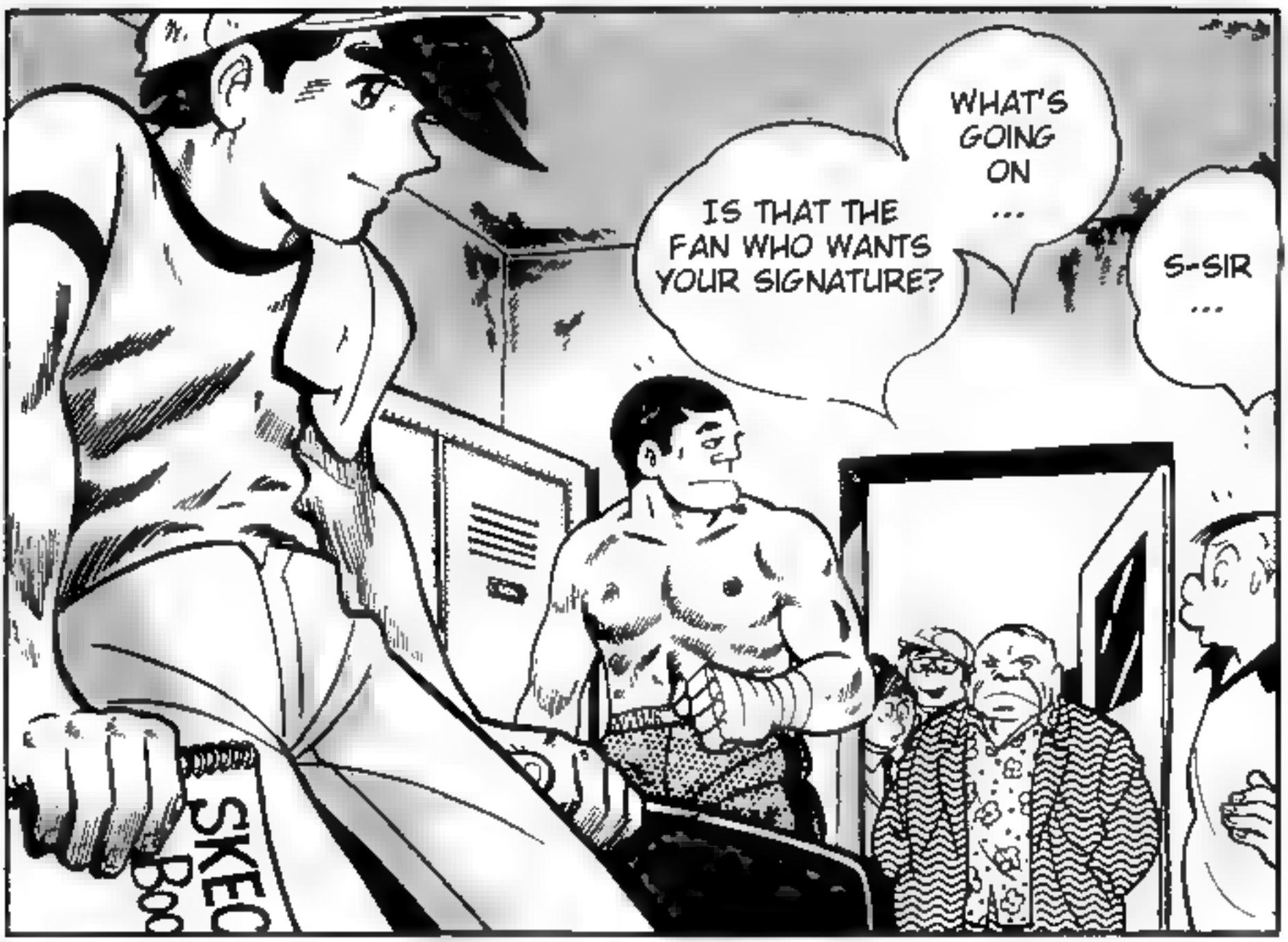
COULD IT BE?

A STRANGE FAN ...

WELL IF IT'S JUST SIGNING SOMETHING FOR A FAN, THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

WHAT'S WRONG, WOLF?

I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT THEN.


WHAT'S GOING ON ...
IS THAT THE FAN WHO WANTS YOUR SIGNATURE?
S-SIR ...

THE REPORTERS WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU AND RIKIISHI IN THE OTHER ROOM.
NO, NO HARM AT ALL. HURRY UP AND SIGN HIS NOTEBOOK, WOLF.
BUT ...

ALL I WANT IS A LITTLE SIGNATURE. WHAT'S THE HARM IN THAT?
HEH HEH. HEY MR. OOTAKA. YOUR FIGHTER HERE IS A LITTLE STINGY, NO?

WHO DARED TRIP MY VALUABLE GOLDEN EGG ..?
HE'S THE TROUBLE-SOME GUY,

SIR, THIS IS THE GUY WHO TRIPPED UP WOLF BEFORE HIS MATCH ...

GIVE ME THE NOTE-BOOK.

OH, SO THANKS A LOT! YOU'LL SIGN THIS FOR ME?

SO JUST DO HIM A FAVOR, ALRIGHT?

WELL, I'M SURE HE'LL GO AWAY ONCE YOU SIGN HIS NOTEBOOK.

WHAT'S HE PLANNING ...?

JUST AS I THOUGHT, IT'S YABUKI ...

AH!

Y-YES, SIR ...

WOOHOO!

AS THE GUARDS TOLD YOU BEFORE, THIS AIN'T A PLACE FOR SOME KID LIKE YOU TO BE WANDERING AROUND!

NOW HURRY UP AND GET AWAY FROM HERE.

HERE!

NOW THIS IS LITERALLY CHICKEN SCRATCH!

DAMN!

WOW, LOOK AT THIS UGLY HANDWRITING!

THAT'S CUTE.

HAHA. LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS AFTER GETTING WOLF'S SIGNATURE.

WOLF, WAIT!

WHY YOU ...!

PRETTY DARN TERRIBLE.

WELL, I'D SAY IT'S QUITE FITTING FOR A BOXER OF NO TALENT AND SMARTS.

I SAW HIS MATCH EARLIER ON, AND I HAVE TO SAY IT'S NOTHING IMPRESSIVE.

HMM?

WELL, ABOUT THAT PUNCH ...

A PUNCH IS ALL THAT MATTERS IN THE WORLD OF BOXING, HAHA.

YOU SEE, A BOXER DOESN'T NEED NEAT OR BEAUTIFUL WRITING.

BOY, AREN'T YOU QUITE AN INTERESTING FAN.

THE WAY WOLF SNEAKILY PUNCHES WHERE HIS OPPONENT HAD HIS GUARD DOWN WAS LIKE HOW A PICKPOCKET CAREFULLY AIMS FOR HIS VICTIM'S WALLET! RATHER WORTHLESS PUNCHES, IF YOU ASK ME!

THAT'S IT, A PICKPOCKET! HIS PUNCHES WERE NOTHING LIKE RIKIISHI'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD POWERFUL BLOWS.

AGH!

WHA ...!

BUT HIS FIGHT WAS KINDA ANNOYING TO BEAR TO WATCH. IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS A BOXER BUT MORE OF A ... A PICKPOCKET!

I DON'T KNOW ALL THIS TALK ABOUT HIM BEING ASIA BOXING'S GOLDEN EGG OR WHAT NOT ...

A... PICK-POCKET ...?

アジア

アジア

SHUT YOUR TRAP, YOU LITTLE PUNK!!

HE MUST BE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH WOLF!

I GOT IT!

PICK A FIGHT?

AGHH! NO, WOLF! STOP!

THEN ALLOW ME!

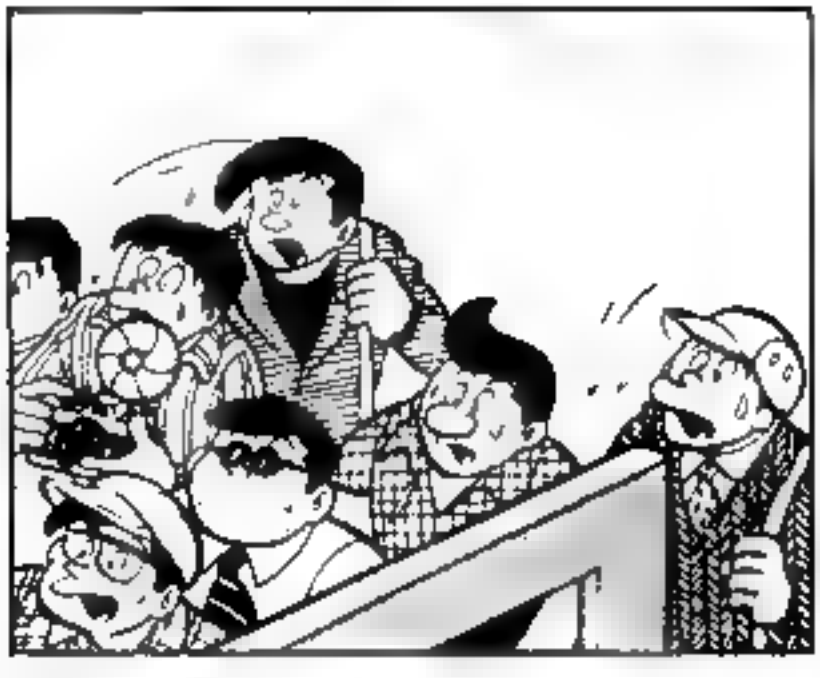
HEH HEH ...

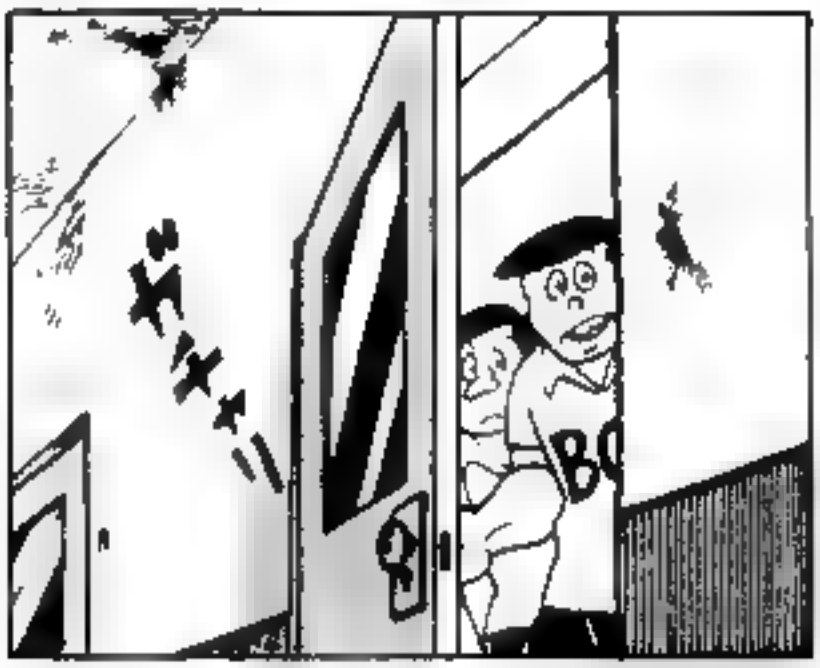
IF YOU WANT HIM TO SHUT HIS TRAP ...

I WAS WAITING FOR THIS.

AH,

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR!





AHH ...!
AGH ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW?

HEY, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING GOING ON IN THERE.

ALL THE REPORTERS ARE CROWDED OVER AT WOLF KANAGUSHI'S CHANGING ROOM ...

LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE JUST NOW?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

天王寺クラブ

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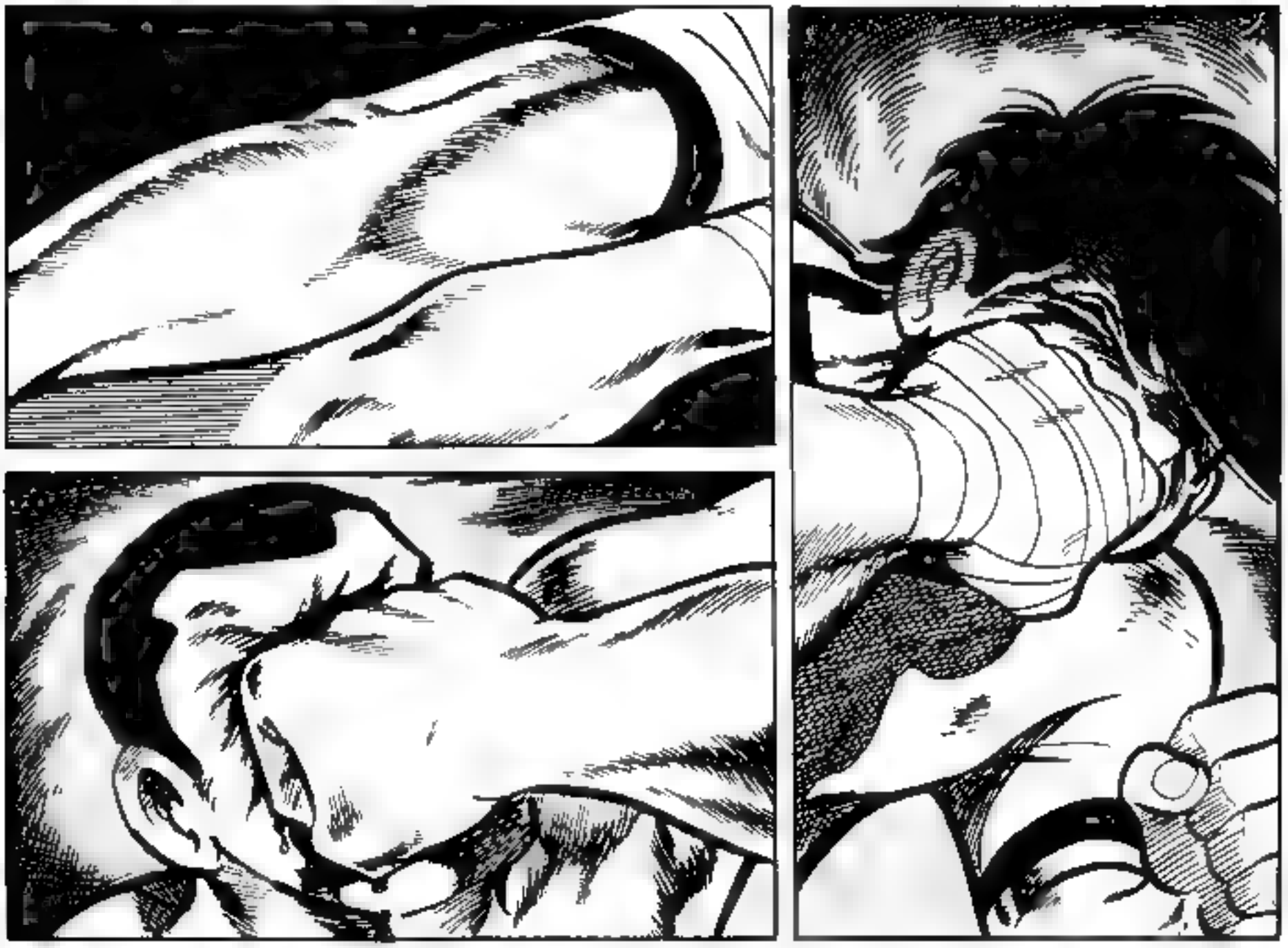
ああ！



BACK AT THAT BOXING TOURNAMENT AT JUVIE!

I RECEIVED,

IT'S THAT SAME KILLER PUNCH,

C-CROSS COUNTER!

MY WOLF ...!

AHH ...

W-WOLF ...

GOTTA GET THIS ON MY NEWS-PAPER!

HEADLINE MATERIAL!

THIS IS ...

NO PICTURES!

AHH, NO!

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

KIIII

AGHHH!

W-WOLF!

AHH!

GET A GRIP!

W-WOLF ...!

Y-YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME ...

JOE ...

AND ISN'T THAT CROSS COUNTER AN EXTREMELY HIGH LEVEL TECHNIQUE?

WOW!

RIKIISHI, DO YOU KNOW THIS BOY? ANY CLUES TO WHO HE IS?

WITH ONE BLOW ...!

TO LAY DOWN THIS YEAR'S ROOKIE CHAMPION,

HE'S NO ORDINARY BYSTANDER ...

TANGE ...!?

YABUKI JOE. HE'S A BANTAMWEIGHT BOXER FROM TANGE BOXING CLUB.

JOE ...

HAS BEEN BARRED FROM THE JAPANESE BOXING ASSOCIATION DUE TO OOTAKA'S OPPOSITION.

TANGE DANPEI, THE OWNER OF TANGE GYM,

IT'S NOT SURPRISING YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT.

NEVER HEARD OF IT.

WAS THERE A GYM WITH THAT NAME?

TANGE BOXING CLUB?

WHAT'S THE REASON BEHIND THAT ...?

OOTAKA'S OPPO-SITION?

OHHH ...

AND SO HIS GYM'S TALENTED BOXER, YABUKI JOE, IS SADLY A NO-NAME BOXER WHO HASN'T EVEN TAKEN HIS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIERS.

ISN'T THAT THE SAME WEIGHT CLASS AS WOLF KANAGUSHI?

HEY, DID HE JUST SAY THIS YABUKI GUY WAS ALSO A BANTAMWEIGHT?

I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO OPPOSED AGAINST TANGE. ALL THE OTHER BOXING CLUB OWNERS WERE AGAINST HIM TOO ...

H-HEY COME ON NOW, SHIRAKI.

ARE YOU ...

H-HEY!

DOESN'T SOME-THING SMELL A LITTLE FISHY HERE?

AND OOTAKA OPPOSED AGAINST TANGE EARNING HIS LICENSE, MEANING YABUKI COULDN'T FIGHT ...

SO HE'S IN THE SAME WEIGHT CLASS AS WOLF ...

NO! THIS IS ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING!

THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE THAT WAS A CONFESSION OF SORTS JUST NOW.

WE HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT I ONLY OPPOSED AGAINST TANGE DANPEI'S LICENSE BECAUSE I FEARED YABUKI WOULD BE TOO GREAT OF AN OPPONENT FOR WOLF KANAGUSHI?

YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, IT ALL COMES ACROSS RATHER SUSPICIOUS NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON MAY BE.

THIS TANGE CLUB YOU BARRED COINCIDENTALLY HAPPENS HAVE A BOXER WHO CAN KNOCK OUT YOUR PRECIOUS WOLF KANAGUSHI ...

BUT EVEN SO ...

THIS WHOLE ISSUE IS ONLY ABOUT TANGE DANPEI ALONE!

TONIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVEN HEARD OR MET THIS YABUKI FELLOW!

PLEASE DON'T PUT THAT IN YOUR ARTICLES!

N-NO!

K-KNOCK OUT ...?

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE BOXING ASSOCIATION, ONLY DECIDED TO DENY HIM THE LICENSE BECAUSE WE BELIEVED TANGE DANPEI TO BE A HARMFUL INDIVIDUAL!

THIS IS A JUICY SCOOP THAT WE JUST CAN'T WASTE.

BUT WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT SOME NO-NAME BOXER HAD A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT AGAINST THE ROOKIE CHAMPION!

WELL, WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE ...

YOU THINK HE'D HAVE TAKEN THAT FANCY CROSS COUNTER IF IT WERE A REAL MATCH!?

WOLF ONLY LET HIS GUARD DOWN BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW YABUKI WAS A BOXER!

NO WAIT!

YOU CAN'T ...!

IT IS OUR JOB TO DELIVER THE PEOPLE INTERESTING NEWS, AFTER ALL.

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SHOULD GET GOING.

W-WAIT!

BRING WOLF OUT!

WE WANT WOLF!

WHY'S THE BANTAMWEIGHT ROOKIE CHAMPION THE ONLY ONE NOT HERE AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY!?

HEY, WHERE'S WOLF?

AH ...

BUT THE FIGHT QUICKLY ENDED IN A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT AFTER A SINGLE PUNCH!

IT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BELIEVE BUT ... APPARENTLY, WOLF KANAGUSHI FOUGHT WITH A YOUNG MAN, FOLLOWING SOME ARGUMENT,

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED AN URGENT NEWS. IT SEEMS SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAS HAPPENED IN WOLF KANAGUSHI'S CHANGING ROOM.

TO OUR LISTENERS.

THIS GYM'S NAME IS TANGE BOXING CLUB AND THE AMATEUR BOXER, WHO HAPPENS TO BE IN THE SAME BANTAMWEIGHT DIVISION AS WOLF KANAGUSHI, IS CALLED YABUKI JOE!

IT SEEMS THAT HE'S A MEMBER OF A SMALL BOXING GYM THAT HAS HAD ITS LICENSE DENIED BY THE JAPANESE BOXING ASSOCIATION.

WHAT'S MORE IS THAT THIS YOUNG MAN WAS JUST AN AMATEUR BOXER!

JUST LIKE BACK IN JUVIE, YOU'RE AS SPLENDID AS EVER!

HAHA, SO. YOU FINALLY DID IT YABUKI.

EVEN IF IT WERE A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT, IT'S STILL PRETTY PATHETIC FOR WOLF TO GO DOWN AGAINST SOME AMATEUR.

THE ROOKIE CHAMP WAS KO'ED BY ANOTHER GUY.

DID YOU HEAR THAT JUST NOW?

I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.

SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER INCREDIBLE FIGHTER HAS APPEARED. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF A PERSON HE IS?

YEAH...

IT WAS MY CHANCE TO PROMOTE WOLF...!

AHHHH!

I SHOULD'VE BEEN MAKING DEALS WITH TV STATIONS BY NOW! GODDAMN IT!

IT'S JUST THE KIDS.

NO ...

HM? IS THAT JOE?

WAIT, WHAT!?

WHA...

B-B-BIG NEWS!

AND THEY SAID THAT THE FIGHT ENDED AS A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT!

BROTHER JOE APPARENTLY WENT TO GO SEE WOLF BUT GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM.

THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT BROTHER JOE ON TV!

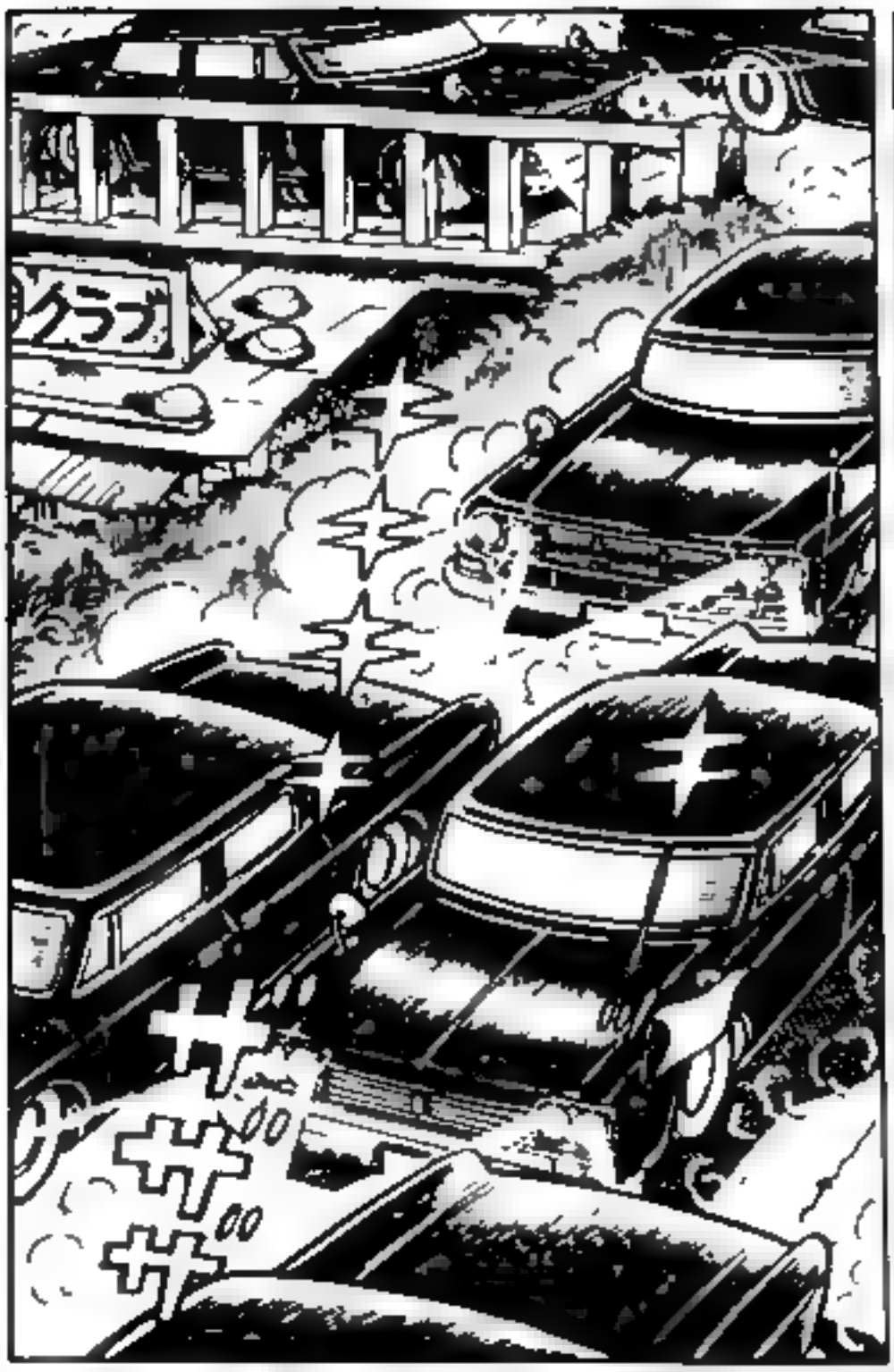
.....

EVERYONE'S ALL WORKED UP ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

WE FOUND OUT WHEN WATCHING THE TV AT THE SOBA SHOP SINCE RIKIISHI WAS GONNA BE FIGHTING TONIGHT!

IT'S TRUE! WE'RE NOT LYING!

HA HA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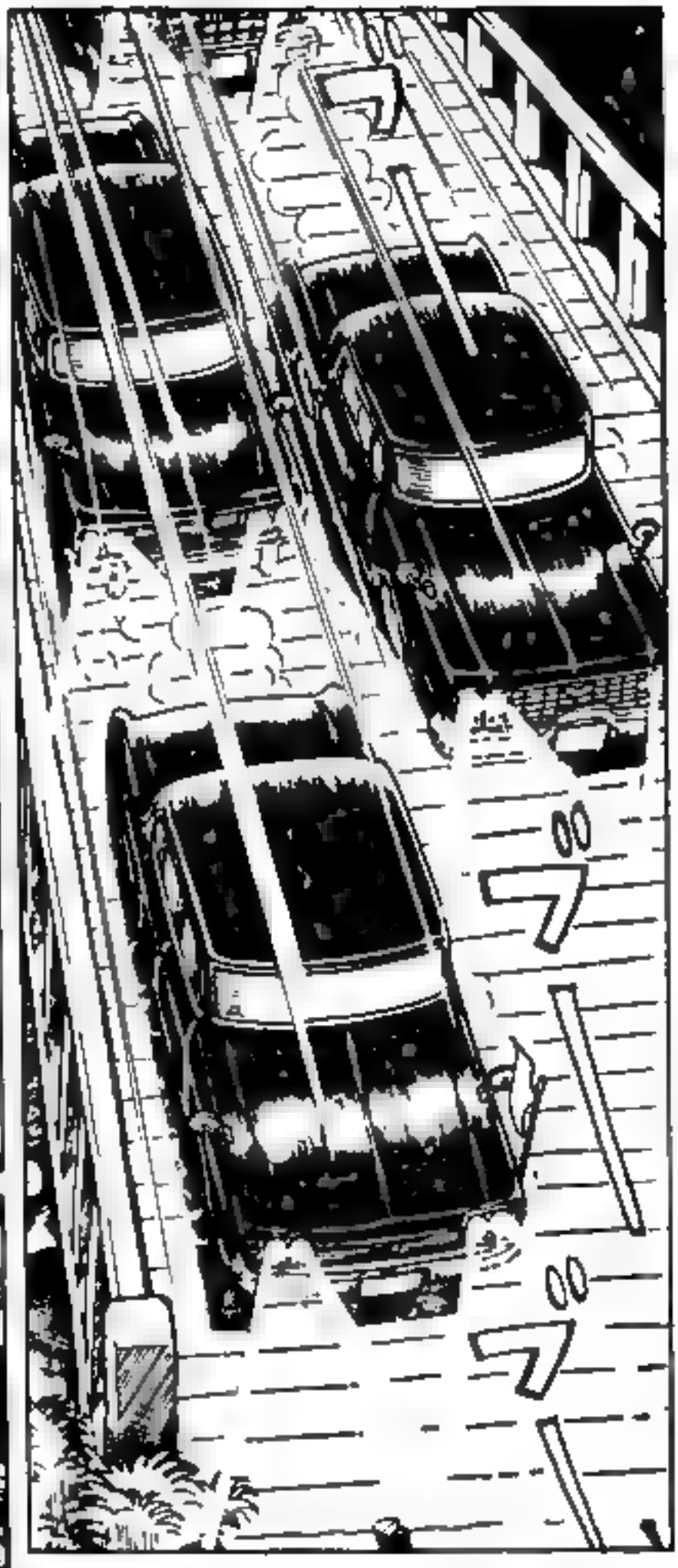


THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE PLACE!
TANGE BOXING CLUB...

AH!

EXCUSE ME, IS MR. TANGE HERE? TANGE DANPEI?

W-WHY IS EVERYONE COMING HERE...?

THE BOXING ASSOCIATION'S COMMISSIONER HAS PERMITTED YOUR CLUB AN OFFICIAL LICENSE!

DUE TO OOTAKA'S STAUNCH SUPPORT,

THAT WOULD BE ME...

TANGE ?

MR. OOTAKA FEELS THAT HIS PLAYER WOLF KANAGUSHI'S FAME HAS BEEN TARNISHED AND SO APPARENTLY, THE ONLY WAY TO FIX IT IS BY HAVING HIM FIGHT YABUKI JOE IN AN OFFICIAL MATCH!

A LICENSE !?

WHAT!?

W...

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER, MR. TANGE?

I... I GOT MY LICENSE...?

THEN THAT MEANS...

EVERYONE'S IN A BIG FUSS ABOUT IT, ESPECIALLY THE TV STATIONS WHO THINK THAT BROADCASTING THE FIGHT WILL BE A GREAT MONEYMAKER.

HE'S CONFIDENT THAT HIS WOLF WILL WIN IN A REAL MATCH.

MR. OOTAKA HAS HIS HEART FIRMLY SET ON THIS MATCH.

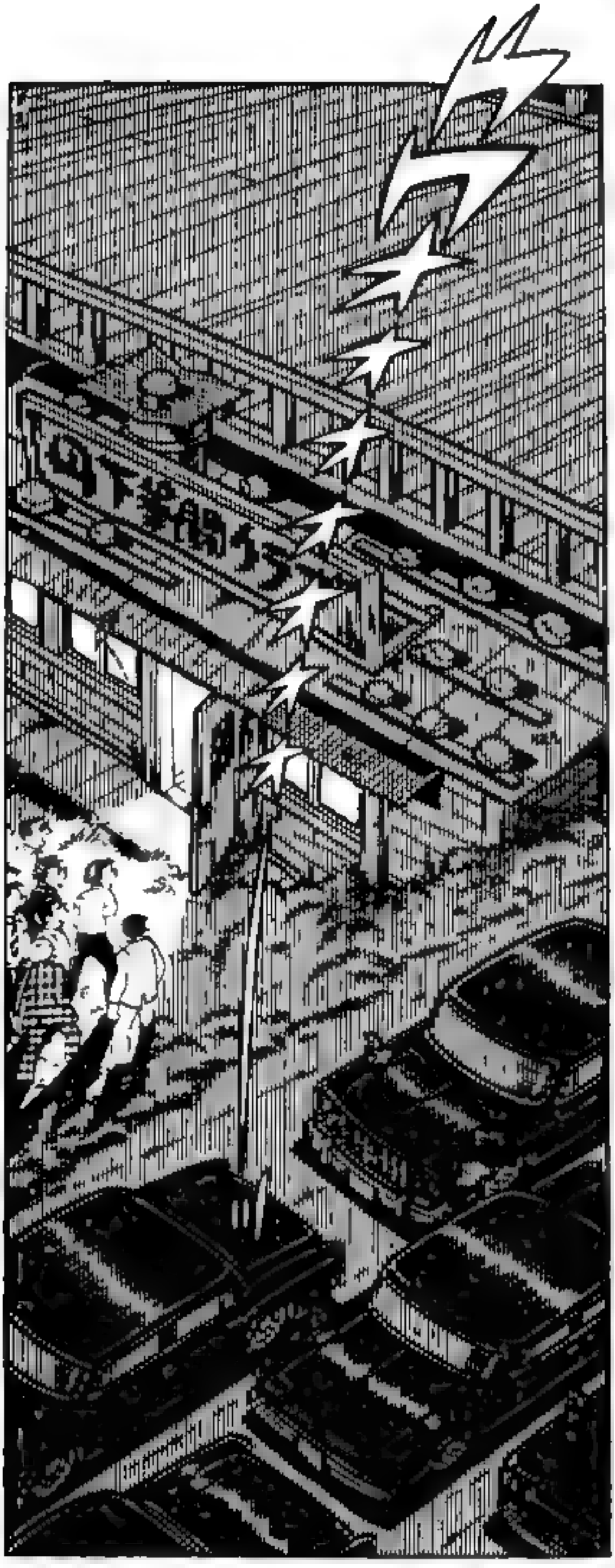
AGH!

WHY'S HE YELLING!?

CAN FINALLY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE PRO-WORLD!

JOE AND NISHI,

M-MY BRIDGE HAS FINALLY BEEN REBUILT!



HE JUST STARTED HOWLING LIKE A DOG...

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

YOU DUMMIES!

O-OH...

HE'S HAPPY BECAUSE HE FINALLY GOT HIS DICENSE!

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S CRYING TEARS OF JOY!?

YEAH.

I THINK WE CAN GO INSIDE AND CONTINUE THE INTERVIEW.

I-IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S STOPPED CRYING...

AND YOU STAY OUTTA THIS. .

IT'S A LICENSE, NOT A DICENSE.

JOE, NISHI...

THEY CAN FINALLY GO OUT ON THE RING AS PROFESSIONAL BOXERS...!

OUR BRIDGE TO TOMORROW HAS FINALLY BEEN BUILT...

YES...

EXCUSE US FOR THE INTRUSION BUT...

UMM...

DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO TRAIN YABUKI INTO A BOXER CAPABLE OF WINNING AGAINST WOLF KANAGUSHI?

BUT HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?

MR. OOTAKA OF ASIA BOXING WANTS TO RESTORE WOLF'S STATUS NO MATTER WHAT BY HAVING AN OFFICIAL MATCH AGAINST YABUKI,

WE'D LIKE TO ASK A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

WHAT?

A LITTLE EARLY FOR THAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT JOE.

ANY-

WAYS,

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS AT THE MOMENT?

BUT BOTH JOE AND NISHI STILL NEED TO PASS THEIR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIERS.

MY GYM MAY HAVE GOTTEN ITS OFFICIAL LICENSE,

I CAN WORRY ABOUT KANAGUSHI ONCE JOE HAS PASSED HIS TEST.

AH!

AGHHH!

DON'T WORRY, I JUST GOT BACK...

HIS FACE...! HE LOOKS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!

BROTHER JOE!

AHH!

IT'S STUPID TO GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT HIM.

KANA-GUCHI THIS,

KANA-GUCHI THAT...

HE'S SMALL TIME...

HAHAHA, THEY'RE ALL SMALL!

J-JOE! HANG IN THERE!

...

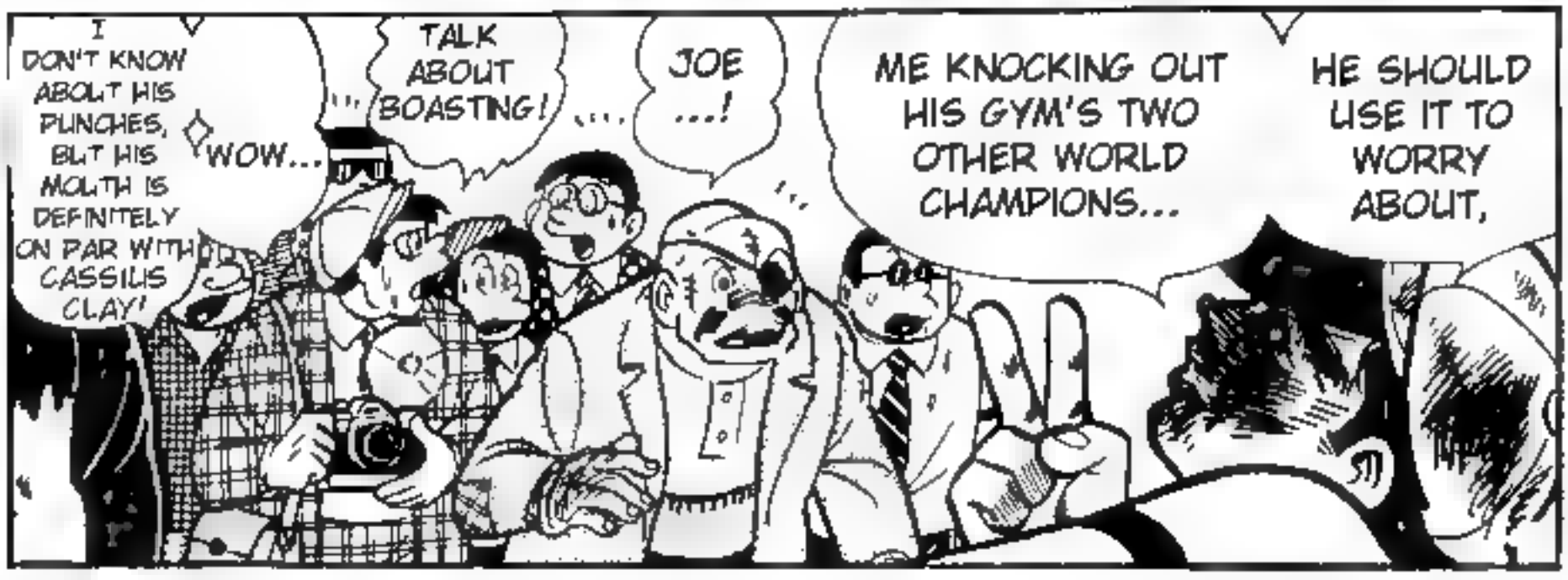
GOO

LET GO OF ME.
I'M FINE, NISHI...

HE TALKS PRETTY BIG FOR SOMEONE WHOSE FACE GOT BEATEN IN BY WOLF.
Q-QUITE A SHOCKING RESPONSE...

WOLF KANAGUSHI'S JUST SOME MANGY MUTT POSING AROUND BY WEARING THE HIDE OF A WOLF. HE AIN'T NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOU SEE,

THAT IF HE HAS THE FREE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING WOLF FIGHT ME,
TELL THAT OOTAKA FOR ME...


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIS PUNCHES, BUT HIS MOUTH IS DEFINITELY ON PAR WITH CASSIUS CLAY!
WOW...
TALK ABOUT BOASTING!
JOE ...!
ME KNOCKING OUT HIS GYM'S TWO OTHER WORLD CHAMPIONS...
HE SHOULD USE IT TO WORRY ABOUT,

JOE'S RATHER WORN OUT FOR TODAY.

WAIT. AH,

THE FORMER WORLD CHAMPION REKNOWNED FOR HIS KILLER PUNCHES AND HIS WILD BOASTING...

THIS IS AS FUN AS INTERVIEWING CASSIUS HIMSELF!

JUST LET HIM GET SOME REST FOR TONIGHT.

AN INTERVIEW IS TOO MUCH FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.

YABUKI! WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE PERFORMANCES!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. WE'LL GET GOING THEN.

I NEED TO TEND TO HIS WOUNDS SO PLEASE.

NOTHING BETTER FOR US REPORTERS TO HAVE A FUN BOASTING BOXER LIKE YOU TO INTERVIEW! HAHAHA!

WE'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU, YABUKI

H-HANG IN THERE JOE!

ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM LOSE HIS CONSCIOUS-NESS...

HE'S RECEIVED QUITE A BEATING...

POOR JOE...

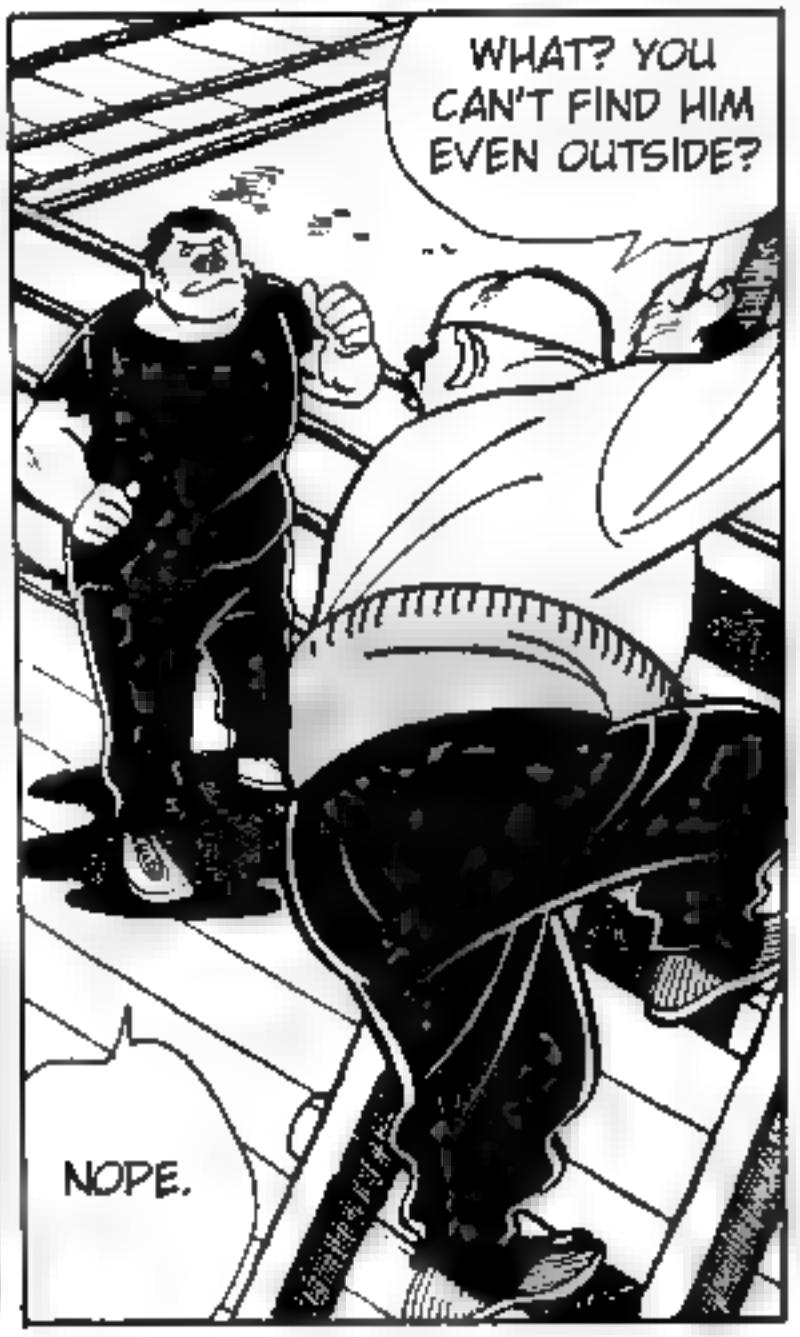
IS THE HOT WATER READY YET?

AGH, HOT!

I JUST BOILED IT RIGHT NOW.

I BROUGHT THE FIRST AID KIT!

HE CAN'T BE TRAINING WITH HIS INJURIES, COULD HE?
WHERE DID HE RUN OFF TO NOW...
AH.


WHAT? YOU CAN'T FIND HIM EVEN OUTSIDE?
NOPE.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE JOE.

JOE...

I ALREADY RAN TEN LAPS TO TAMAHIME PARK AND BACK.

BIT LATE, DON'CHA THINK?

WHAT, DID YOU JUST WAKE UP?

NOW AIN'T THE TIME TO BE SAYING SUCH EASY GOING THINGS.

YES, I TOLD YOU ALREADY.

YOU SURE YOU'RE FINE RUNNING RIGHT NOW?

JOE, WITH YOUR INJURIES...

MY BODY'S MUCH TOUGHER THAN THAT!

YOU THINK MY BODY'S WEAK ENOUGH TO BE DONE IN BY A SINGLE PUNCH FROM WOLF!?

SERIOUS INJURIES!?

NOW MOVE ASIDE.

WHO WAS THE ONE TELLING ME I'D HAVE TO TRAIN HARD TO PASS THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIERS?

BUT WITH YOUR SERIOUS INJURIES, IT'D BE BEST TO REST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

T-TRUE, I DID SAY THAT BUT...

O-OK.

I WANT YOU TO START TRAINING TOO.

N-NISHI...

...

I'M BUSY TRAINING!

GET YOUR FEET UP HIGHER.

LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE TURNED AROUND COMPLETELY...

NOW STRETCH!

SHADOW BOXING!

FASTER, FASTER!

Y- YES...

NISHI! RAISE YOUR ELBOW A LITTLE MORE!

USE YOUR LEGS! YOUR LEGS!

NOW GIVE ME A RIGHT UPPERCUT!

JAB, JAB!

STRAI-GHT!

YOUR PUNCH IS FINE BUT YOU'VE GOT NO GUARD!

WHAM!

NOW A LEFT UPPERCUT!

YOUR GUARD IS DOWN AGAIN!

GOOD, DRIVE YOUR OPPONENT BACK WITH JABS!

KEEP PUSHING FOR-WARD!

DON'T RUSH SO MUCH.
JOE ...

I COULDN'T GIVE A RAT'S TAIL ABOUT THAT TITLE.
HMPH, WHO CARES ABOUT BEING A ROOKIE CHAMP?
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF TO HURRY SO MUCH.
I KNOW IT MAY BE HARD TO SEE RIKIISHI AND WOLF HAVE THEIR FAME AND GLORY ALREADY AS ROOKIE CHAMPIONS...

P-PRO-TEST!?
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TRAIN AS HARD AS I CAN.
BEFORE THAT, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE NEXT PRO-TEST ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THIS MONTH.
BUT,
I'M AIMING FOR SOMETHING MUCH MUCH HIGHER...
THAT AIN'T WHAT I'M AIMING FOR.

BUT A B-LEVEL LICENSE.

AND WE'RE NOT GOING FOR A C-LEVEL LICENSE,

I SIGNED YOU UP FOR THE TEST TOO, NISHI

IS ONLY 3 DAYS FROM NOW!

AND THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THIS MONTH.

THERE ARE 3 LEVELS OF A PROFESSIONAL BOXING LICENSE: A, B, AND C LEVELS. NORMALLY, A NEWCOMER WILL EARN HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL LICENSE BY PASSING THE C LEVEL TEST.

B...!?

HOWEVER, SOME OF THE BETTER AMATEURS WHO ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR SKILLS WILL SKIP THE C-LEVEL AND TAKE A B-LEVEL QUALIFIERS TEST. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE B-LEVEL TEST IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE C-LEVEL. (THE A LEVEL TEST IS THE HARDEST AND CAN ONLY BE TAKEN ONCE THE PLAYER HAS FOUGHT AT LEAST 6 OFFICIAL MATCHES)

HEH, NO NEED TO RUSH, OLD MAN.

ONCE YOU FINISH YOUR MEALS, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO PRACTICE RIGHT AWAY!

THERE'S NO TIME TO SIT AROUND THEN!

AND THERE'S ONLY 3 DAYS LEFT!

T-THE B-LEVEL IS QUITE HARD YOU KNOW!

TAKE IT EASY, OLD MAN.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE PRO-TEST ANYWAYS?

YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST TOLD ME ABOUT THIS EARLIER!

JEEZ,

ONLY 3 MORE DAYS...

IF I WAS UNDERESTIMATING IT, I WOULDN'T HAVE WOKE UP AT 3AM AND STARTED RUNNING NOW, WOULD I?

UNDERESTIMATE THE TEST AND YOU'LL BE IN TEARS THIS COMING SUNDAY.

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. THE TEST WAS TO BE HELD AT TANABE GYM, LOCATED NEAR KOURAKUHEN HALL.

COME ON, NISHI. LET'S ALL WORK HARD IN CELEBRATION OF TANGE BOXING CLUB EARNING ITS OFFICIAL LICENSE!

ぺたぺた
ぺたぺた

IT'S JUST ABOVE HERE, HUH...
IT FEELS LIKE A RATHER CRUDE PLACE.

EVERYONE THAT'S HERE TO GET TESTED GO TO THE SCALE AND GET YOURSELF WEIGHED FIRST.
YOU IDIOT, THERE AIN'T NO CHANGING ROOM HERE! JUST DO IT THE CORNER IF YOU'RE EMBARRASSED!
UMM, WHERE'S THE CHANGING ROOM..?

NER-VOUS ...
I'M GETTING RATHER..
IT'S OOTAKA!
HEH HEH.. THE ROOM'S PACKED WITH ALL SORTS OF TOUGH-LOOKING GUYS.

COACHES AND ALL OTHER PEOPLE PLEASE GO WAIT IN THE WAITING ROOM.

SO IF YOU'RE ALL CHANGED, GO TO THE TESTING ROOM!

NOW THEN.. WE'LL BEGIN THE TEST SHORTLY.

ALRIGHT?

AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE TESTING ROOM, PLEASE GET YOUR NUMBERED BIBS AND PUT THEM ON.

YEAH

YES. .

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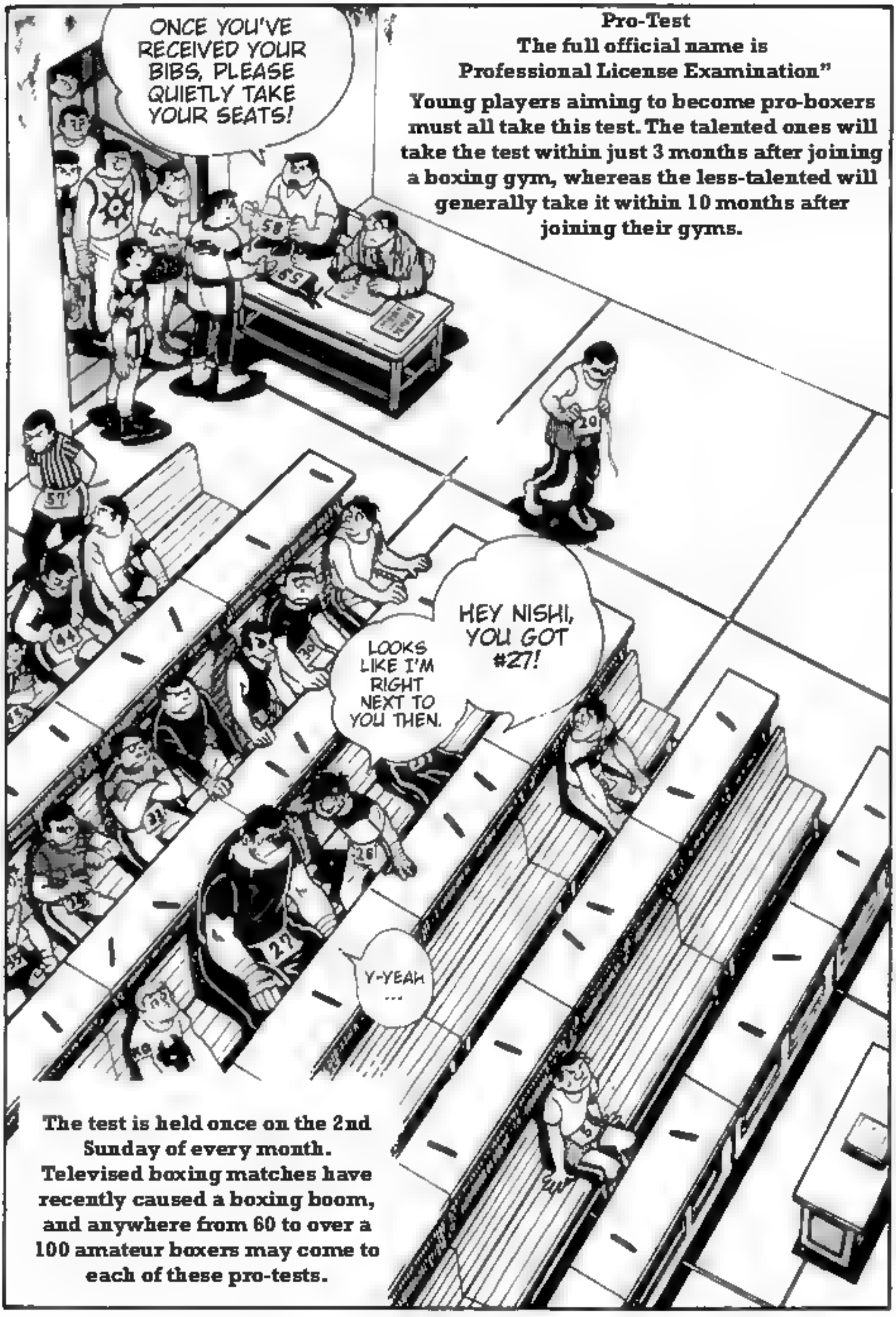
Pro-Test
The full official name is
Professional License Examination"

Young players aiming to become pro-boxers must all take this test. The talented ones will take the test within just 3 months after joining a boxing gym, whereas the less-talented will generally take it within 10 months after joining their gyms.


ONCE YOU'VE RECEIVED YOUR BIBS, PLEASE QUIETLY TAKE YOUR SEATS!
HEY NISHI, YOU GOT #27!
LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT NEXT TO YOU THEN.
Y-YEAH ...

The test is held once on the 2nd Sunday of every month. Televised boxing matches have recently caused a boxing boom, and anywhere from 60 to over a 100 amateur boxers may come to each of these pro-tests.

Y-YOU'RE LOOKING P-P-PRETTY CALM...

W-WE-L...

BUT I'M JOE, THE GUY WHO CAN KNOCK OUT EVEN WOLF AND RIKIISHI!

HEH. WE-L, I'M NOT TRYIN' TO BE OVERLY ARROGANT OR ANYTH NG,

HEH HEH. ALL THE GUYS HERE MAY LOOK PRETTY TOUGH,

BUT THEY'RE SO NERVOUS THEY LOOK LIKE THEY NEED TO TAKE A PISS OR SOMETHIN'.

ALRIGHT, QUIET DOWN EVERY-ONE!

I-IS THAT THE GUY I HEARD ABOUT WHO FOUGHT THE TWO ROOKIE KINGS WOLF AND RIKISHI...?

AH..

HAVING A GUY LIKE ME WASTE HIS TIME WITH A STUPID TEST IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME, THAT'S WHAT I THINK!

WAS THAT REALLY YOU?

IN SHORT, IT'LL ELIMINATE FAVOURITISM FROM THE JUDGES.

TO PREVENT ANY TESTING BIAS, YOU WILL ALL BE REFERRED ONLY BY YOUR BIB NUMBER AND NOT BY YOUR BOXING GYM NOR NAME.

A COUPLE THINGS TO GO OVER BEFORE WE BEGIN THE TEST.

UNLIKE OTHER SPORTS, BOXING IS CONSIDERABLY DANGEROUS AND ONE NEEDS THE PROPER SPIRIT, TECHNIQUE, AND HEALTH TO ENDURE THE HARSH FIGHTS. THUS, WE THE JUDGES WILL INDISCRIMINATELY DISQUALIFY YOU IF YOU ARE EVEN SLIGHTLY LACKING IN ANY OF THESE 3 DEPARTMENTS!

IT WON'T MATTER IF YOU'VE FAILED 10 OR 20 TIMES, YOU WILL FAIL AGAIN IF YOU DON'T MEET OUR STANDARDS!

THE TEST THAT YOU WILL TAKE RIGHT NOW WILL BE TO EVALUATE YOUR PERSONAL MANAGEMENT OF YOUR HEALTH!

HAHAHA...

EHEHEH.

AHAHAHAHA!

HAHA!

ON A RELATED NOTE, THERE ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN AMATEURS WHO'VE FAILED MORE THAN 10 TIMES. OF COURSE, THEY ALL AGED TOO MUCH BY THEN AND LOST THEIR DESIRE TO BECOME PRO-BOXERS.

AS THE TEST PAPERS ARE DISTRIBUTED. I WANT YOU TO KEEP THE BACK SIDE UP UNTIL I TELL YOU TO BEGIN. ONLY THEN, YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO FLIP YOUR PAGE OVER AND BEGIN

NOW THEN... WE'LL BEGIN WITH THE WRITTEN PORTION OF THE TEST.

WHA?

GOT IT!?

THIS ISN'T A LAUGHING MATTER!

YESSIR!

THIS IS A BOXING TEST, WHY CAN'T WE JUST SETTLE IT WITH OUR FISTS?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

T-THE HELL!?

HERE. TAKE ONE AND PASS IT ALONG.

WHAT'RE YOU SO FLUSTERED ABOUT?

WRITTEN PORTION...?

WR

AS IN.. ACTUAL WRITING? LIKE WITH A PENCIL?

STOP WITH THE WEIRD INSULTS.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHARPER THAN THAT DUMB MUG OF YOURS GAVE CREDIT FOR.

OH I SEE. SO YOU'RE CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN PASS THIS, HUH?

N-NO, I DON'T THINK SO...

YOU'VE CERTAINLY CALMED DOWN QUITE A BIT.

NISHI ...

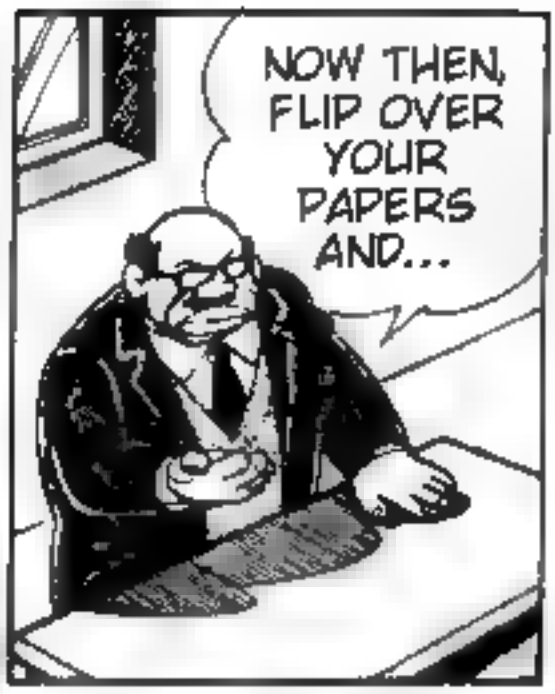
THAT IS BECAUSE ANYONE UNSCRUPULOUS ENOUGH TO CHEAT DOES NOT POSSESS THE RIGHT QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A BOXER!

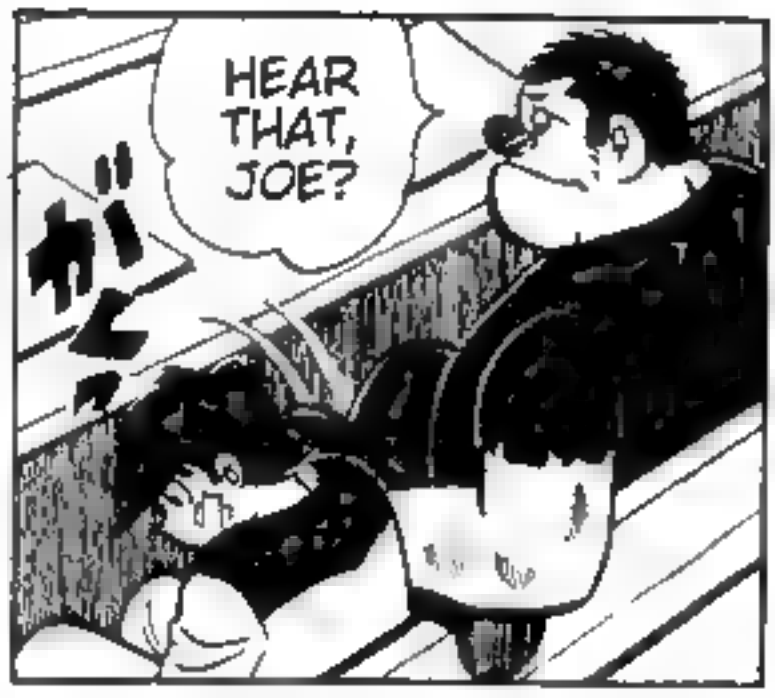
ALSO, IF ANYONE IS FOUND CHEATING OR DOING ANYTHING AGAINST THE RULES, NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED BUT YOU WILL ALSO LOSE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ANOTHER PRO-TEST EVER AGAIN.

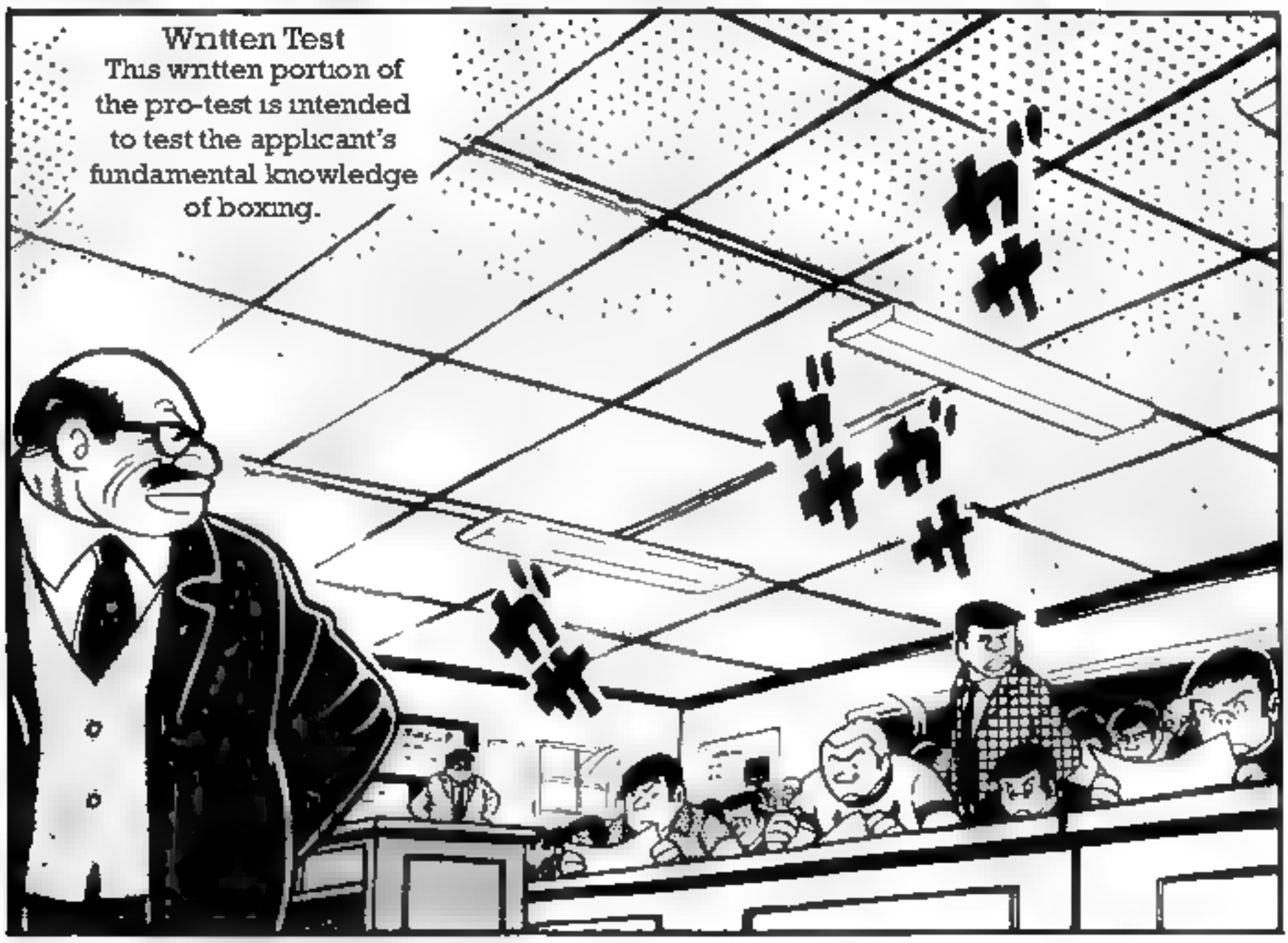
WELL, WHATEVER. AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY PAL NISHI BY MY SIDE, I'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT TOO!

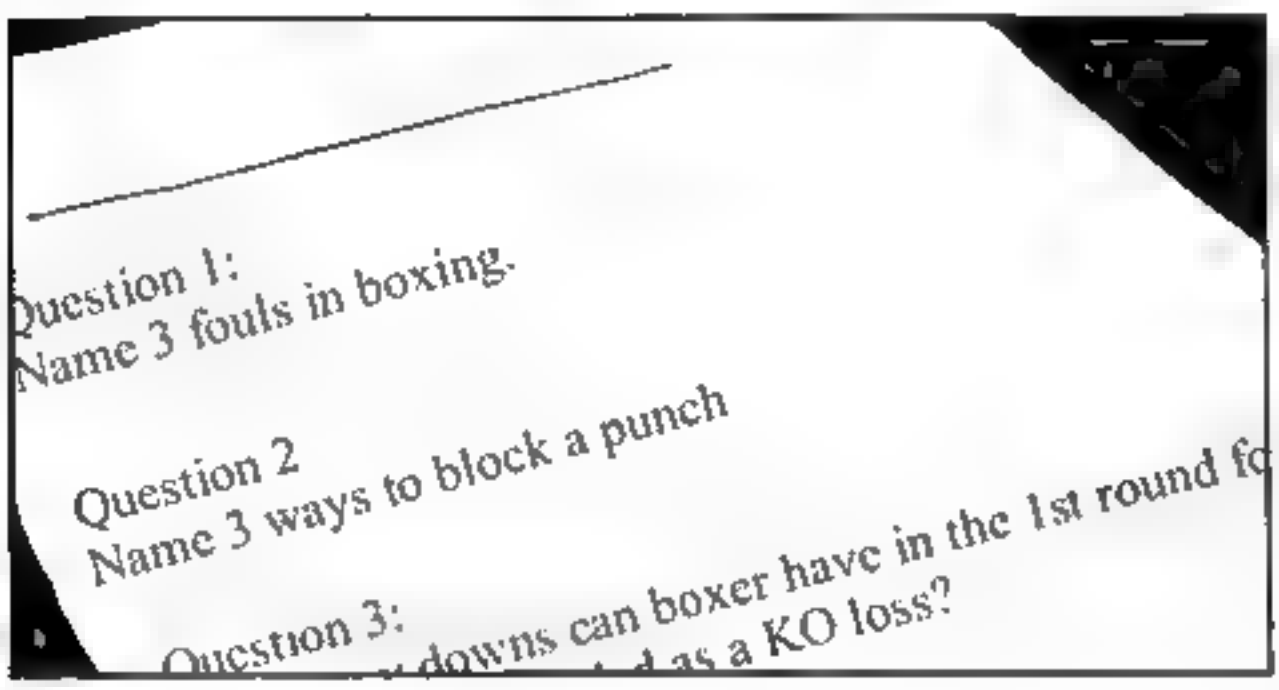
I'LL BE COUNTIN' ON YA!

BEGIN!


NOW THEN, FLIP OVER YOUR PAPERS AND...


HEAR THAT, JOE?


Written Test
This written portion of the pro-test is intended to test the applicant's fundamental knowledge of boxing.


Question 1:
Name 3 fouls in boxing.
Question 2
Name 3 ways to block a punch
Question 3:

THERE IS TO BE NO TALKING DURING THE TEST! #26!

FOR A MINUTE THERE, I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE TO ANSWER MATH, ENGLISH, OR JAPANESE QUESTIONS BUT THIS IS ALL BOXING STUFF!

WHEW!

HAHAHA! AS IF I'D EVER FAIL THIS TEST!

ALRIGHT, TIME'S UP!

YES, SIR.

HEH HEH

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, FOLLOW THE CLERK TO GET YOURSELF WEIGHED.

FLIP OVER YOUR TESTS AND LEAVE IT ON THE DESKS.

YES.

NEXT!

HEH HEH!

118 lbs, BANTAM-WEIGHT!

#26.

WHOOPS.

WHO SAID THAT YOU COULD DO SHADOW BOXING IN HERE!?

HEY, #26!

179 lbs, HEAVY-WEIGHT!

#27.

SHHH!

SHHH!

SHHH!

YOU SEEM IN AN AWFULLY GOOD MOOD. FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT WRITTEN TEST?

JOE,

NO, NO. I'M NOT DOUBTING YOU BUT...

WHAT, YOU DOUBTING ME, NISHI!?

26

OH REALLY?

PIECE OF CAKE!

HELL YEAH! ANYBODY WHO CAN'T PASS THAT CLEARLY HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH HIS HEAD.

HAHA, I SEE. BITING, KICKING...

THAT'S 3 RIGHT THERE!

LET'S SEE... BITING, KICKING, AND... OPEN-HAND BLOW.

I-IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WROTE DOWN!?

W-WAIT!

WHERE IT SAID TO NAME 3 FOULS?

WHAT DID YOU WRITE FOR THAT ONE QUESTION,

27

28

PIECE OF CAKE!

OH THOSE?

DO THAT IN A GAME AND NOT ONLY WILL YOU GET FOULED, BUT YOU'LL ALSO PROBABLY LOSE YOUR LICENSE!

T-THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE!

YOU SAYIN' I'M WRONG!?

WHAT,

WHA...

IN OTHER WORDS, STUFF LIKE LOW-BLOWS, HEADING, AND HOLDING!

WERE FOULS THAT YOU SHOULDN'T DO BUT STILL HAPPENS REGULARLY IN FIGHTS.

26

WHAT THEY MEANT BY FOULS IN THAT QUESTION.

LISTEN.

WELL, IT'S ONLY ONE QUESTION. IT'S NOTHING TO GET DEPRESSED ABOUT...

SO THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I WAS SUPPOSED TO LIST!?

DAMN IT!

REALLY? WHAT DID YOU WRITE?

'CAUSE YA KNOW, I ANSWERED BEAUTIFULLY ON THE NEXT QUESTION ABOUT NAMING 3 WAYS TO BLOCK A PUNCH!

HEY, I AIN'T DEPRESSED AT ALL!

ONE!?

O...

'CAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE SURE-FIRE WAY.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR 3 DIFFERENT WAYS!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK? AIN'T THAT A GREAT ANSWER!?

AS THEY SAY, THE BEST DEFENCE IS A GOOD OFFENSE, EH!?

IN OTHER WORDS, OFFENSE!

W-WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?

WHAT!?

OH LORDY...

HAHA HAHA!

AHAHA HAHAHA!

HEH HEH HEH.

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IN THIS CASE!?

BUT I THINK IN THIS CASE...

WELLL, I CAN'T SAY YOU'RE TECHNICALLY WRONG ...

YOU BETTER NOT SAY I WAS WRONG AGAIN THIS TIME!

AND WHAT WAS THAT "OH LORDY" JUST NOW, NISHI!?

WHAT THE TEST WANTED WERE 3 ACTUAL DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES. FOR EXAMPLE,

SWAY BACK,

DUCKING,

OR CLINCHING...

THE ONE ABOUT HOW MANY DOWNS DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE IN ROUND 1 BEFORE IT COUNTS AS A KO LOSS!

BUT I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I GOT THE NEXT ONE RIGHT!

DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT!

NGHHH...

SON OF A...!

GODDAMN TEST IS NOTHIN' BUT TRICK QUESTIONS...!

HEE HEE.

HEH HEH, YEAH, HOW'D YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION?

SO WHAT DID YOU WRITE FOR THAT ONE?

HA HAHA!

OH LORD!

AHAHAHA HAHAHA!

AS LONG AS YOU CAN GET UP BEFORE THE REF COUNTS TO 10, THEN IT'S NOT A KO LOSS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FACE A DOWN! A DOWN IS ALWAYS JUST A DOWN!

OH NO...

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

AH HAHAHA. IT HURTS. I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING!

PFFT! AHAHAHA!

HAHA HAHA!

AHA HAHA!

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING BUT FIGHTING, DO YOU...

JOE...

KEEP LAUGHING AT ME AND I'LL KILL ALL YOUR ASSES!

SHUT UP!

THAT NATURE OF YOURS IS EXACTLY WHAT CAUSED YOU TO GET THOSE 3 QUESTIONS ALL WRONG...

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BORN FOR THE PURE SAKE OF FIGHTING...

DOESN'T EVERYONE KNOW THAT IF YOU GET KNOCKED DOWN 3 TIMES IN ROUND ONE, IT COUNTS AS A KO LOSS?

SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT WITH THAT DUDE.

YOU SAYING I WAS WRONG AGAIN!?

ALL WRONG!?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT JOE. IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT ALL THE FIGHT'S YOU'VE BEEN IN HAVE IGNORED THAT RULED...

WHISPER WHISPER

YOU THINK HE'S... YOU KNOW?

HEH HEH.

THEM TALKING ABOUT THE 3 KNOCKDOWN RULE OR SOMETHING...

I THINK I VAGUELY RECALL,

THAT'S RIGHT...

AH

YOU PLAYED BY ELIMINATING THAT RULE...

LIKE BACK AT THAT TIME IN JUVIE WHEN YOU FACED RIKIISHI...

HOW COULD I HAVE MADE SUCH A STUPID MISTA...

GODDAMN IT!

JOE, SHHH.

QUIET DOWN!

YOU THERE!

HEY!

IF YOU DON'T SHAPE UP, I'LL HAVE YOU DISQUALIFIED!

JUST WHAT KIND ATTITUDE DID YOU COME HERE WITH!?

Y-YEAH, WHAT-EVER. I GOT T.

HMPH.

#26 AGAIN, I SEE!

JUST WHO DO THEY THINK I AM!?

HMPH!

IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN SO PLEASE JUST FORGIVE HIM ONE MORE TIME.

EXCUSE US.

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY SIR.

WHY YOU..!

WHAT-EVER!?

A-ALRIGHT...

S-SPARRING.

HEH HEH..

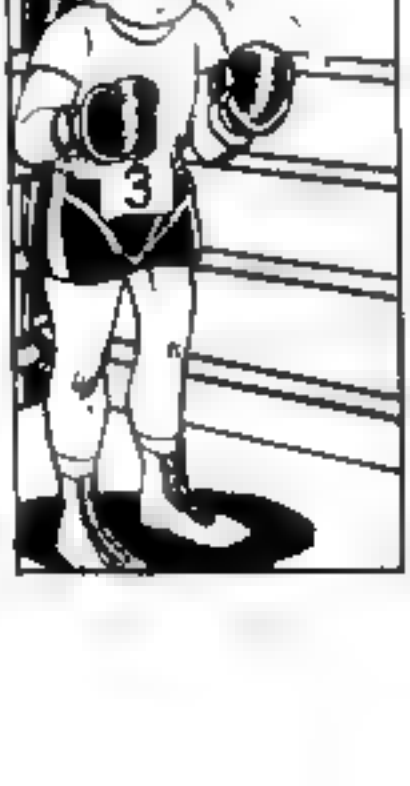
EVERYONE GATHER AROUND THE RINGS!

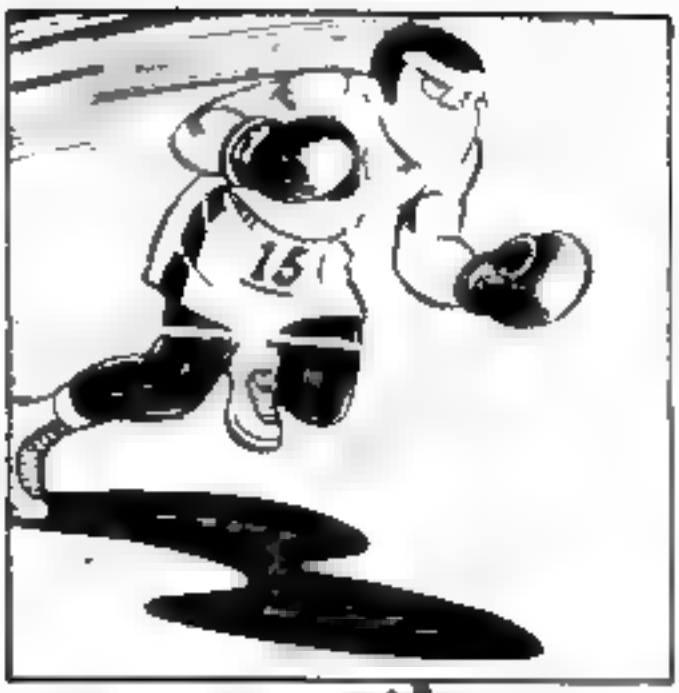
NOW THEN. WE'LL BEGIN THE LAST PORTION OF THE TEST WHICH WILL BE THE SPARRING.

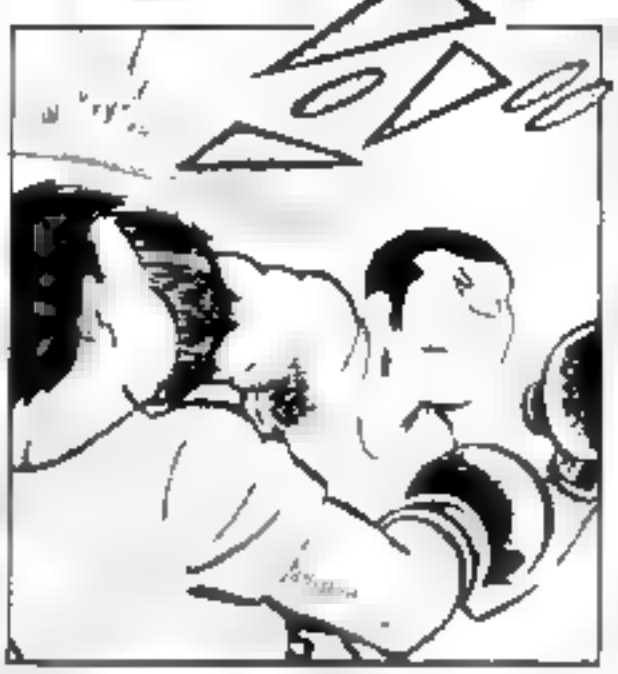
There is 1 referee in the ring and 4 judges on each side evaluating the offensive and defensive capabilities of each boxer.

Sparring Test

This is when applicants of the same weight class spar against each other. The C level test's sparring will only be 1-round long, whereas the B-level test is 2-rounds long.







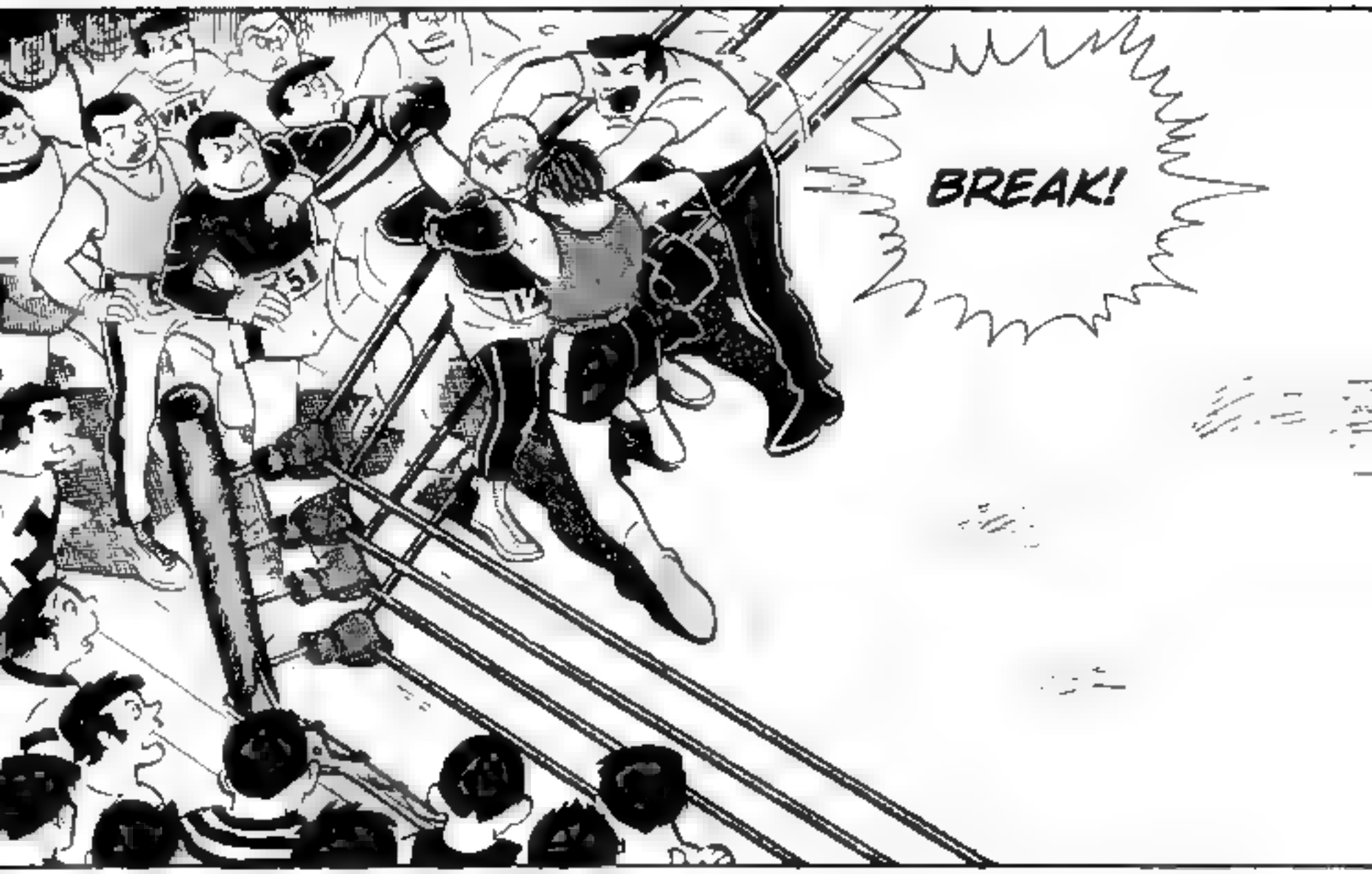
27
26

FINALLY I CAN SHOW THEM MY REAL TALENT!

HEH HEH...
SPAR-RING, EH?

MAYBE IF I WIN WITHIN 10 SECONDS... OR IF I CAN GET A KO WITH A SINGLE BLOW, THE JUDGES WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PASS ME!
HMM...
HEH HEH!

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT WRITTEN TEST BY DOING WELL HERE.
DAMN.


BREAK!

FIGHT!

I SAID BREAK!

ボ!
ドドドド
12
38

PANT
PANT
12

HUFF
HUFF
38

I DON'T CARE IF THOSE TWO PASS OR NOT BUT THIS IS JUST PATHETIC!

HMPH

THEIR CRAPPY FIGHTING'S ALMOST PAINFUL TO WATCH.

KO

ALRIGHT, I'M FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO REALLY TAKE ON THIS PRO-TEST!

RIGHT?

IF IT WERE ME, I'D SHOW THOSE REFS WHAT I'M MADE OF BY ENDING THE FIGHT WITH A SINGLE PUNCH.

C'MON, YOU TWO!

A RIGHT! GIVE'IM A RIGHT!

PANT

PANT

はあ

はあ

TAKE OFF YOUR GLOVES AND GET YOURSELF TREATED IF YOU'RE INJURED.

はあ

はあ

#32 AGAINST #46!

NEXT!

WHAT'RE YOU FIDGETING SO MUCH FOR?

JOE

STILL NOT MY TURN, HUH...

DAMN IT,

BUT OF COURSE, THE GREAT MIGHTY NISHI WHO GOT PERFECT ON THE WRITTEN PORTION CAN AFFORD TO SAY SUCH THINGS.

HEHEH, HOW EASYGOING OF YOU.

YOU CAN BOAST ABOUT YOUR PUNCHING STRENGTH AFTER YOU'VE BECOME A PRO.

THE PRO-TEST IS ONLY TO SEE IF YOU HAVE THE FUNDAMENTALS DOWN OR NOT.

YOU SHOULD STICK WITH THE BASICS FIRST. SHOWING THAT YOU CAN FIGHT IN A CALM AND SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER IS THE KEY.

IF YOU TRY TO RUSH THE FIGHT BY ONLY FOCUSING ON GETTING A KO, YOU MIGHT END UP PUTTING YOURSELF IN A WORSE-OFF SITUATION.

LISTEN UP. IN A FIGHT, YOUR ONLY GOAL IS TO KNOCK OUT YOUR OPPONENT.

WHAT, TRYING TO GIVE ME A BORING OLD LECTURE?

TRUE BUT...

I'M SURE I FAILED THAT WRITTEN TEST SO I GOTTA MAKE UP FOR THAT BY EARNING SOME BIG POINTS IN THE SPARRING!

BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE IT EASY HERE.

THE B-LEVEL APPLICANTS ARE ALL AMATEURS RELATIVELY EXPERIENCED WITH FIGHTING...

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S THE REAL FUNDAMENTAL THING YOU SHOULD BE STICKIN' TO!

AS LONG AS YOU CAN KNOCK OUT YOUR OPPONENT WITHOUT EVEN LOSING YOUR BREATH, STUFF LIKE SPORTSMANSHIP DON'T MEAN A DAMN!

HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO RESPOND TO THAT...

I...I'M NOT REALLY SURE,

HEH HEH...

HAHA HA..

W-WHAT ...?

IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING PRETTY BIG BUT,

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

...

HEY, JUST WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?

STOP IT, JOE!

REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW!

WHY YOU...!

WHAT!?

I THINK THAT YOU MIGHT BE TRYING TO ACT TOUGH BEFORE SPARRING TO HIDE YOUR NERVOUS TREMBLING.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

ぎしっ

AH...!

#26, COME OVER HERE!

ME?

HUH?

BOTH OF YOU COME WITH ME.

#27, YOU TOO.

DON'T BLAME ME.

I TOLD YOU TO STOP...

O-OK...

WE'LL HEAD DOWN TO MY OFFICE DOWNSTAIRS!

IT SEEMS YOU TWO ARE SET TO TAKE THE B-LEVEL TEST,

ACCORDING TO YOUR APP-ICATION FORMS.

BUT I WAS WONDERING IF THIS MIGHT NOT BE A MISTAKE.

W-WHAT IS IT, SIR...?

DO THE TWO OF YOU HAVE ANY SUCH EXPERIENCES OR ACCOM-PLISHMENTS?

THE B-LEVEL TEST IS PRIMARILY MEANT FOR EXPERIENCED AMATEUR BOXERS WHO'VE ACHIEVED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

BUT YOU KNOW,

WE'RE HERE TO TAKE THE B-LEVEL TEST.

NOPE, THERE'S NO MISTAKE!

AND THE BANTAMWEIGHT WOLF KANAGUSHI!

THE FEATHERWEIGHT RIKISHI TOORU,

I'VE FOUGHT AGAINST TWO BOXERS RECENTLY TITLED THE ROOKIE CHAMPION,

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT NISHI HERE BUT THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE FOR ME!

SURE, SURE!

U-UMM, WEL...

TL NOTE: TSUJIGIRI IS WHEN A SAMURAI KILLS A RANDOM PASSERBY TO TEST OUT HIS NEW SWORD

SO YOU'RE THE TSUJIGIRI BOXER* THAT CAUSED A BIG FUSS RECENTLY...

HM...

J-JOE...

IF IT WERE REALLY UP TO ME, I'D JUMP RIGHT IN AND TAKE THE A-LEVEL TEST. HAHAHA!

IN FACT, EVEN TAKING THIS B-LEVEL TEST IS A LITTLE BELOW ME.

THIS IS THE SAME FAMOUS BOXER WHO, AT THE TIME, ALREADY BOASTED AN AMATEUR RECORD OF 124 WINS IN 136 MATCHES AND A GOLD MEDAL BANTAMWEIGHT BOXING OF THE 1964 SUMMER OLYMPICS,

LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING! WHEN SAKURAI TAKAO TURNED PROFESSIONAL, EVEN HE ONLY TOOK A B-LEVEL TEST.

TSUJIGIRI BOXER...?

WHAT!? E-EVEN SAKURAI...?

I'LL CHANGE TO A C-LEVEL TEST.

G-GEE, I NEVER REALIZED.

MUCH LESS THE B-LEVEL TEST, HAS A VERY NARROW MARGIN OF PASSING. AND SO, IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF MIND, I WILL SPECIALLY ALLOW YOU TO CHANGE TO A C-LEVEL TEST RIGHT NOW.

EVEN THE C-LEVEL TEST,

YOU'LL HAVE A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT SPARRING OPPONENT IF YOU STICK WITH THE B-LEVE....

I'M TAKING THE B-LEVEL TEST!

I AIN'T CHANGIN' MY MIND!

JOE. YOU KNOW YOU ALREADY FAILED THE WRITTEN TEST. I WON'T SAY ANYTHING BAD SO JUST .

WHAT ABOUT YOU, #26?

ALRIGHT THEN... #27 DOWN TO A C-TEST...

YOU MAY RETURN BACK TO THE TESTING ROOM NOW.

WELL, IT IS YOUR CHOICE, AFTER ALL. ALRIGHT THEN, #26 FOR THE B-LEVEL TEST...

EACH OF THEM, BOASTING AN ACCOMPLISHED AMATEUR RECORD...

THEY'RE ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM C-LEVEL APPLICANTS

HEH HEH, EVEN THE GREAT SAKURA COULD ONLY TAKE A B-LEVEL TEST

JOE...

I WON'T CHANGE MY MIND!

I'M FIRMLY SET ON THE B-LEVELS, SIR!

NEXT UP, THE HEAVY-WEIGHTS!

ガガガガ

ガガガガ

...

HAHA

THIS SPAR JUST GOT MORE EXCITING NOW THAT I KNOW I MIGHT FIGHT SOMEONE OF SAKURA'S CALIBRE.

56

Y-
YEAH..

IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR THE MAMMOTH NISHI'S DEBUT!

#27!

#56 VS #27!

HURRY UP AND GET PREPARED!

T-
THANKS.

BREAK A LEG.

SINCE THIS IS THE HEAVYWEIGHT TEST, YOUR OPPONENT'S JUST AS RIDICULOUSLY BIG AS YOU.

27

BEGIN!

27

OWIE...

H-
HEY!

ALRIGHT, GET IN THERE! AND DON'T LOSE!

26

27

GO

AH...

27

56

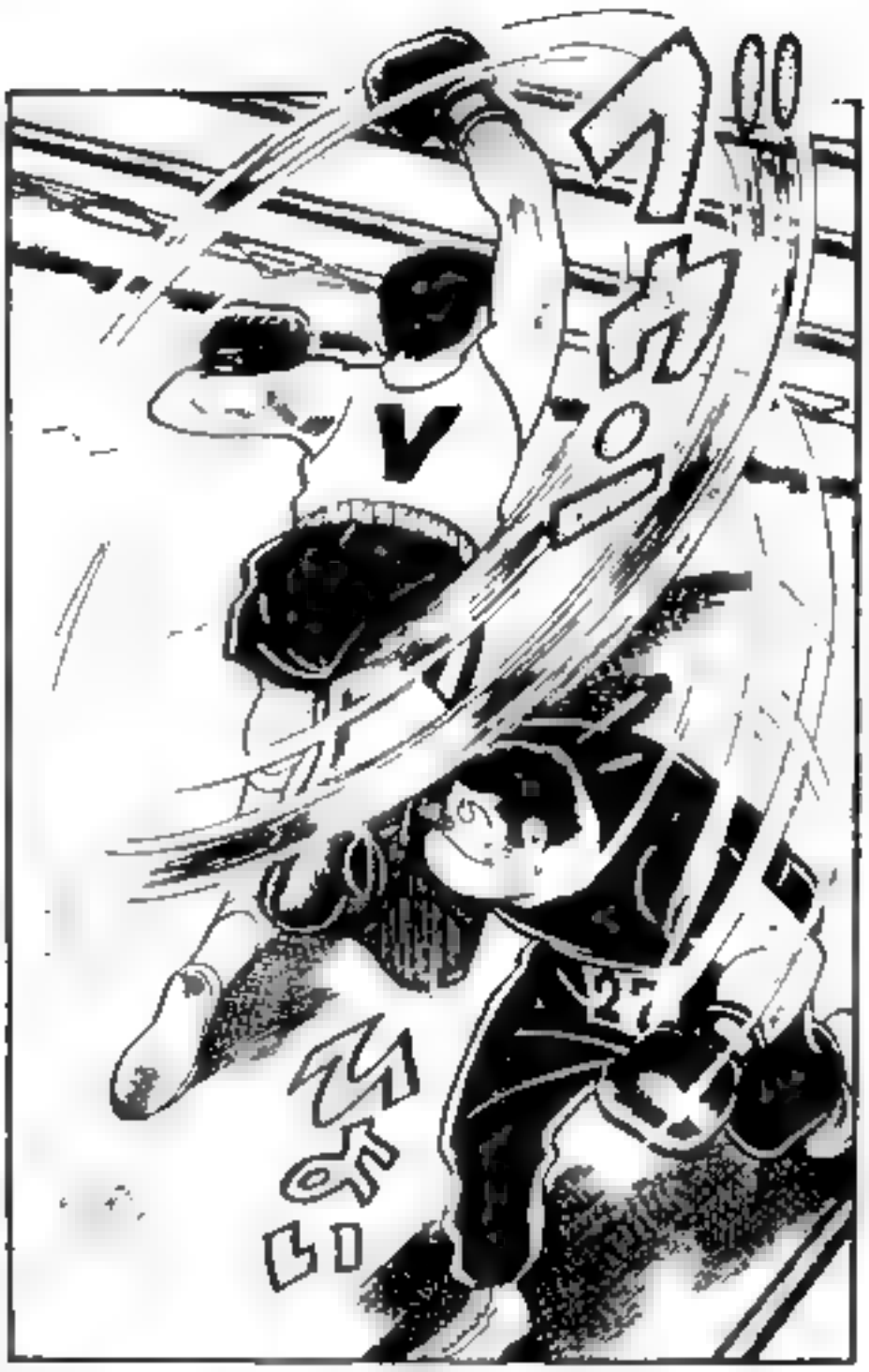
W-
WOW...

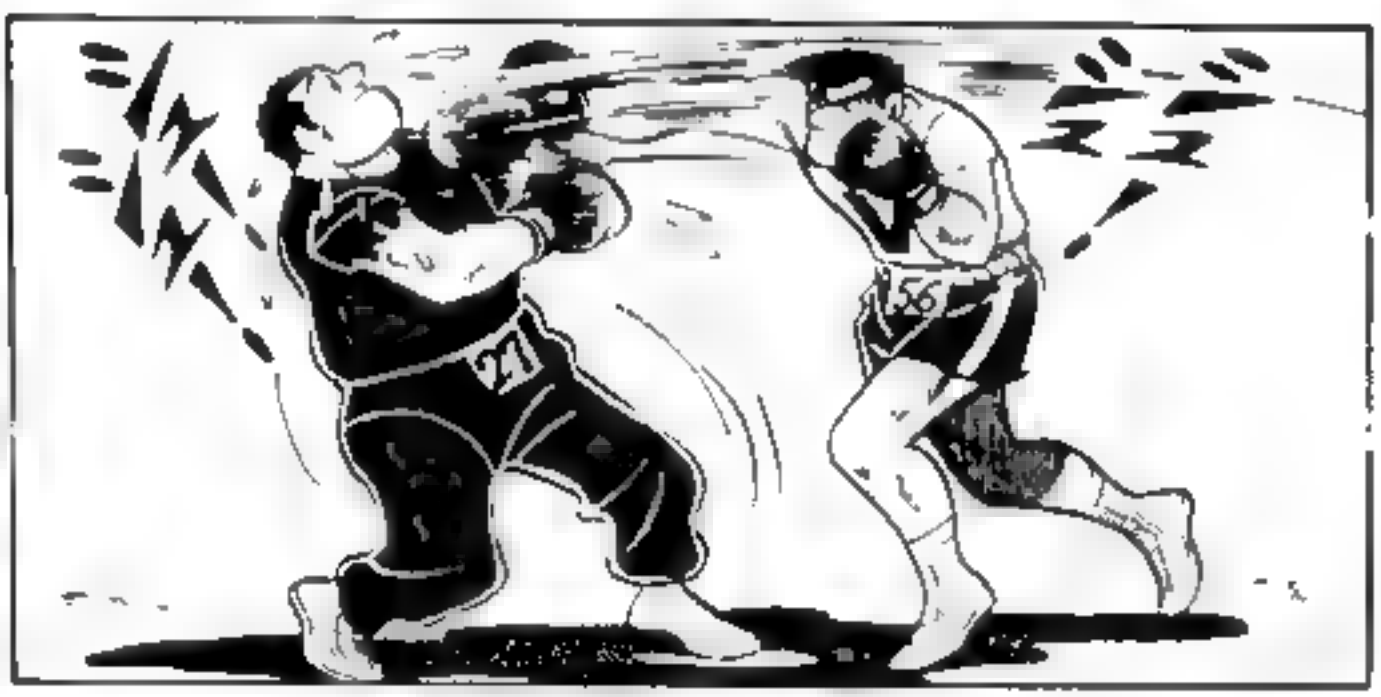
THE PUNCHES OF HEAVYWEIGHTS ARE REALLY ON A WHOLE 'NOTHER LEVEL FROM OURS.

AGH.

WOAH.

KU...





LOOKS LIKE #27'S BEEN SCARED BY #56'S FIERCE ATTACK RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO.

HE'S OVER-WHELMING #27 OUT THERE!

THAT #56 AIN'T BAD!

HIT BACK AT 'IM!

HIT 'IM!

C'MON, NISHI! WHAT'RE YOU JUST STANDIN' THERE FOR!?

THIS ONE'LL BE OVER SOON...

HE'S DRIVEN HIM TO THE ROPES!

NGH!

D-DAMN IT...

ドドDAMN IT, HE'S CAUGHT AGAIN!

STOP RUNNING AWAY AND FIGHT BACK!

C'MON! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE WEARING THOSE GLOVES FOR!? START PUNCHING!

WHA...

THIS ISN'T A BOXING STADIUM, IT'S A TEST CENTER. YOU'RE BEING AN ANNOYANCE TO ALL THE OTHERS HERE BY GETTING SO HYSTERICAL.

NISHI YOU BIG DUMBO! WHAT'S WITH THOSE PATHETIC MOVES!

SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME A HUMAN-SANDBAG!?

W-WHAT?

HE STILL HASN'T TAKEN A SINGLE PUNCH FROM HIS OPPONENT.

AND BESIDES, WHAT'RE YOU YELLING AT YOUR FRIEND FOR?

WHY YOU...

YOU AGAIN...

56

56

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

O-OH...

NOT EVEN A KILLER BLOW FROM HIS OPPONENT WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH HIM OFF.

HE'S DODGING AND BLOCKING ANY PUNCHES COMING HIS WAY. THAT'S SOME GREAT SWAYBACK AND DUCKING HE'S PULLING OFF OUT THERE.

JUST LOOK.

!!

JEEZ... TALK ABOUT BEING IMPATIENT...

YOU STILL HAVE TO HIT BACK!

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT DODGING, THAT AIN'T GONNA EARN YOU ANY POINTS!

WELL I STILL DON'T LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE OUT THERE!

NOW GET LOST!

STOP ACTING LIKE SUCH A KNOW-IT-ALL!

SHUT YOUR FREAKIN' TRAP!

WHA...

HE'S MOST LIKELY COUNTER-ATTACK ANY MOMENT NOW.

YOUR FRIEND IS CALMLY READING INTO HIS OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS.

.....

#27 JUST GOT A COUNTER IN.

THERE, LOOK.

KA

KA

KA

YOU...!

Y-YOU DID IT, NISHI!

AHH...

BACK TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNER!

HA HA

はあ はあ はあ

NGHHH.

6!

5!

4!

FIGHT!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF HUFF

ALRIGHT! JUST LIKE THAT!

KO

はあ はあ

YOUR TEST IS OVER!

STOP!

BUT I THINK I WON IN POINTS.

HAHA... I COULDN'T GET A KO.

KO

YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!

NISHI!

DID YA HEAR THAT? THEY FINALLY CALLED MY NUMBER!

26!

#14 VS #26!

FOR THE B-LEVELS.

TIME FOR THE B-LEVEL SPARS!

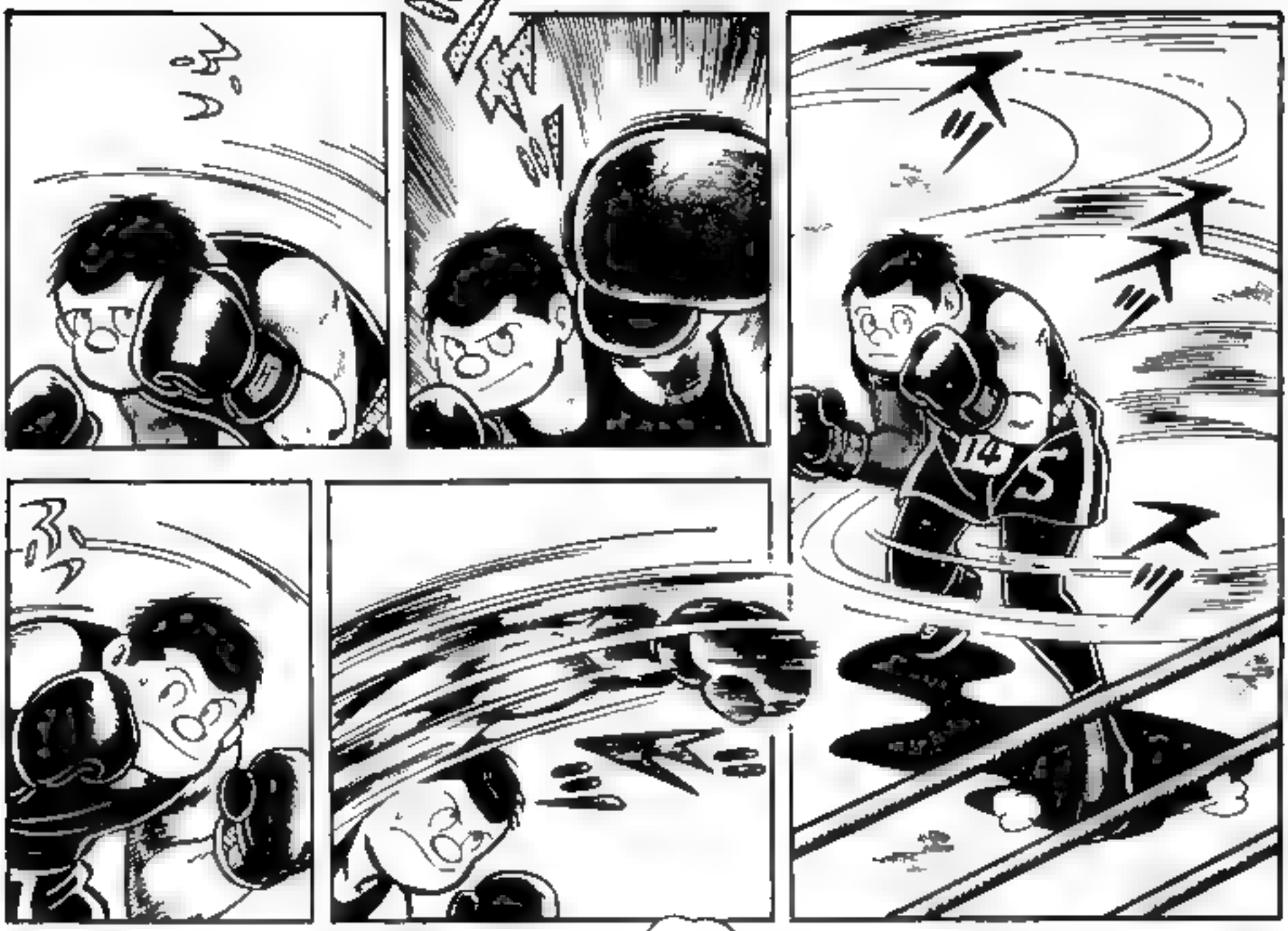
THE C-LEVEL TESTS ARE NOW OVER.

STOP WASTING TIME AND PUT ON YOUR GLOVES ON.

AND #14 WOULD BE ME.

H-HIM!?

WHAT .


WOAH!
INCRE-
DIBLE!
LOOK AT 14'S
FOOTWORK!

JUST WHO IS HE?

BUT THAT IS SOME IMPRESSIVE FOOT-WORK...

LOOK AT HIM SHOWING OFF WITH HIS SHADOW BOXING!

GODDAMN IT, WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM...

J-JOE... STOP MOVING SO MUCH OR I CAN'T TIE IT TIGHT...

2

71

6

GOLI

THANK GOD!

THEY ARE!? WHEW, MADE IT JUST IN TIME!

EXCUSE ME, ARE THE B-LEVELS JUST GETTING STARTED?

WHO'S YOUR SPARRING PARTNER?

ONE MORE PICTURE! LOOK THIS WAY!

OH, LOOKS LIKE INAGAKI'S ALREADY ON THE RING!

SORRY, COMING THROUGH. EXCUSE ME. CLEAR THE WAY.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS RUCKUS!?

INAGAKI, CAN YOU LOOK THIS WAY AND POSE FOR THE CAMERA?

WE CAN'T JUST HAVE PEOPLE BARGE THEIR WAY INSIDE WHEN WE'RE TRYING TO CONDUCT A TEST!

AH, MY APOLOGIES, SIR. WE'RE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS HERE TO SEE INAGAKI SHOUHEI TAKE HIS PRO-TEST.

AFTER ALL, INAGAKI HERE WAS THE RUNNER-UP FOR THE JAPANESE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

SO WHO'S INAGAKI'S SPARRING PARTNER?

YES, WE'RE VERY SORRY BUT WE PROMISE WE'LL KEEP IT DOWN.

WELL EVEN SO, THE NOISE WILL DISTRACT NOT ONLY INAGAKI BUT THE OTHER BOXERS AS WELL SO...

FOR NATIONALS ...?

R-RUNNER UP...

....

#26 ◇ HE'S THE BOY PUTTING ON HIS GLOVES BACK THERE.

ALRIGHT THEN. JUST MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT DOWN AND NOT BE A DISTURBANCE!

26...?

AHH... THAT'S...

I... I THINK SO.

ISN'T #26 THAT GUY CALLED YABUKI...?

HEY...

AMAZING! ONLY 3 DAYS AFTER HIS INCIDENT WITH WOLF KANAGUSHI, HE'S ALREADY TAKING HIS PRO-TEST!?

ドカ=ドカ

NOT ONLY THAT, HE'S TAKING A B-LEVEL TEST! AND HE'S GONNA BE SPARRING WITH INAGAKI!

NOW THIS'LL MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING ARTICLE!

U-UHH, CAN YOU GUYS QUIET D...

I TOLD YOU TO KEEP IT DOWN!

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU ABOUT FIGHTING AGAINST INA-GAKI?

YOU SURE YOU CAN SPAR JUST FINE AFTER RECEIVING THOSE INJURIES ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO?

YABUKI!

THE ONE CALLED YABUKI JOE...?

HE'S...

ARE YOU READY?

#26!

NOW QUIET DOWN!

YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS YOU WANT AFTER THE TEST!

Y-YES OF COURSE...

DON'T PANIC OUT THERE.

YOUR UP AGAINST THE NATIONALS RUNNER-UP.

HAH, I'M *ALWAYS* READY!

JOE, YOUR MOUTH-PIECE!

JUST STAND ASIDE AND WATCH!

HA, NATIONALS, MY ASS!

UNLIKE C-LEVEL APPLICANTS, THE B-LEVEL APPLICANTS WILL SPAR FOR 2 FULL ROUNDS.

28

ROUND 1, BEGIN!

14

BUT I HAVE THAT WRITTEN PORTION TEST HANDICAPPING ME.

IT'S UNFORTU-NATE,

26

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT WITH SOME BIG POINTS HERE!

SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I'M FACING,

HUH?

WHA...

14

7

7

JUST ANOTHER IDIOTIC BOXER THAT CAN ONLY RECKLESSLY CHARGE AHEAD

HEH

HAA!

28

14

HAHA...

DAMN IT!

LOOK UP

GODAMN IT, THIS BASTARD'S LIKE THE AIR OR SOMETHING!

AGH!

AHH!

GUH!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HEH HEH
OWW...
O...
HIS ATTACKS MIGHT NOT LOOK TOO FEROCIOUS BUT ONCE HE BITES, HE NEVER LETS GO...!
HA, THIS IS NOTHING JOE'S A WILD BEAST...
HMM...
DOES THIS MEAN THAT INAGAKI'S CLEARLY A LEVEL ABOVE HIM...?
HE GOT SOCKED RIGHT IN THE NOSE.
HEH
THIS AIN'T NOTHIN' TO PANIC ABOUT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL...
CORNER HIM FIRST!
JOE! JUST PUNCHING HIM IS USELESS!
CHASE HIM BACK TO THE ROPES, HUH...
ALRIGHT THEN.
GET HIS BACK TO THE ROPES!

AGHH!

AHHH!

AH. .

TURN AROUND!

YOU CAN'T STOP MOVING, JOE!

GUH!

HEH, TAKE MY 3-PUNCH COMBO!

YOU COCKY SON OF A...!

HE TRIPPED OVER HIMSELF!

HAHAHA!

WHAT A LOPSIDED MATCH THIS IS!

DAMN ..

SLIP!

OH, PISS OFF!

WAIT! YOU HAVE TO TOUCH YOUR GLOVES TOGETHER!

14

STOP!

18

JOE.

WHEW.

WOW...

ガラガラガラ

ゴボゴボ

THE WATER'S OVER THERE. HAVE HIM RINSE OUT HIS MOUTH.

HERE'S HIS MOUTH-PIECE.

はあ

26

JOE. .

T-THANK YOU.

NOW MOVE IT!

I'LL FIGHT THE WAY I DAMN WANT!

SHADDUP!

YOU HAVE TO...

JOE, YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE TOO BIG.

HIS FACE LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AFTER ALL THOSE PUNCHES.

NOT SURPRISING, HE HAS BEEN ONE-SIDEDLY TAKING ALL THE BLOWS SO FAR.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRETTY WORKED UP.

FIGHT!

DO IT MY OWN DAMN WAY!

I'LL...

BOTH HIS HANDS ARE JUST HANGING LIFELESSLY

W-WHAT'S WITH HIM?

14

26

GET INTO YOUR FIGHTING POSE OR YOU'LL BE PUMME...ED ..!

JOE!

W-WHAT'S WRONG, JOE!?

UGH...

14

FIGHT!

F...

BUT HE'S SLOWLY STARING DOWN INAGAKI...

HE MAY NOT BE IN HIS FIGHTING STANCE,

NO...

DID HE ALREADY LOSE THE WILL TO FIGHT...?

HEH HEH HEH

26

HEH

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR LOOKING DOWN ON ME!

DO YOU WANNA BE HIT *THAT* BADLY, IS THAT IT!?

D-DAMN IT, WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE ...?

THEN I'LL HIT YOU AS MUCH YOU WANT!

FINE! IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT,

I'VE BEEN...

AGH!

WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT!

SAME HERE...

C-CRAP... IT WAS A TRAP...!

JOE..

J...

AGHHH!

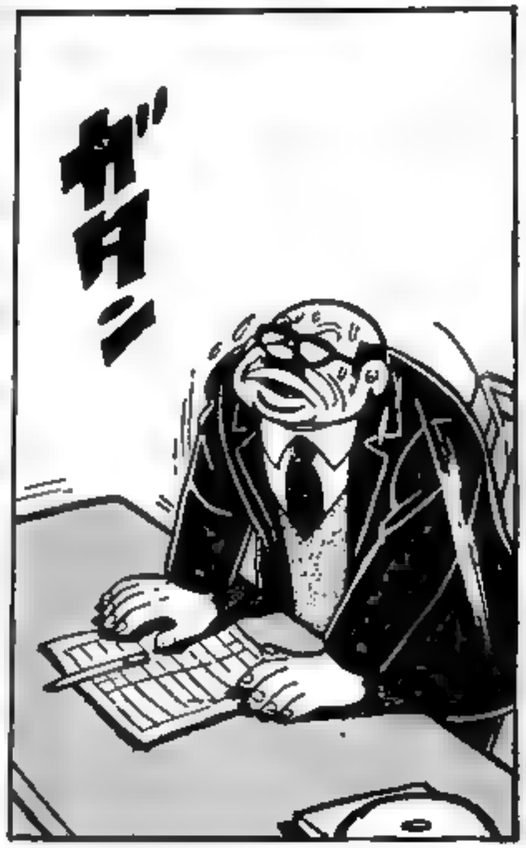
AH..

WHOA...

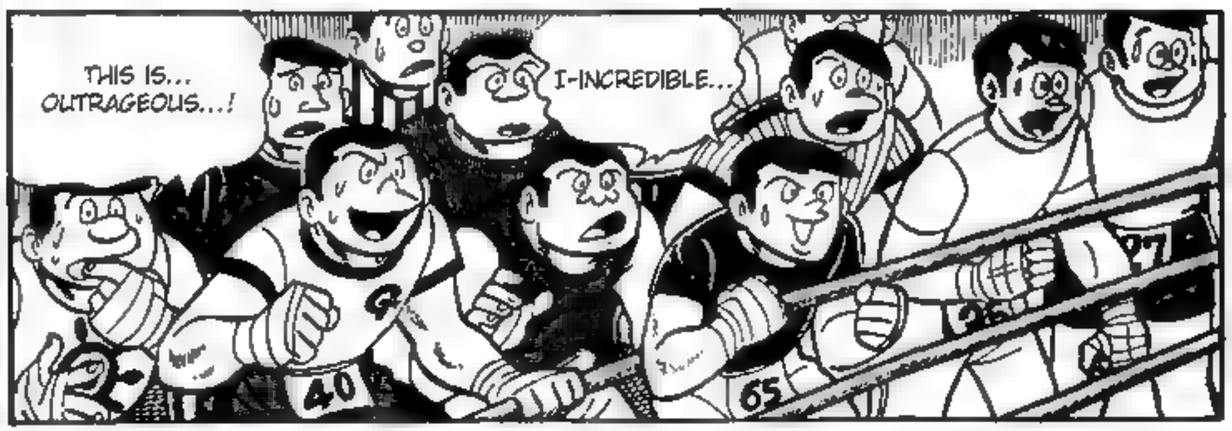
WHAAA...

14

REF, STOP THE FIGHT!
N-NO...!
KA-POW!


FFF

AGHHH...
AH...
OHHH...


THIS IS... OUTRAGEOUS...!
I-INCREDIBLE...
40
65
27

B-BUT...

STOP THE FIGHT!

HE'S ALREADY ON THE ROPES!

HE'S ALREADY ON THE ROPES SO STOP!

STOP!

KILL!
26
OHHH!
AGHHH!
ACK!
HE GOT KNOCKED OUT OF THE RING...
UGH...

#26! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?

H-HEY!

WAIT RIGHT THERE!

26

A-AGHHHH!

I AIN'T LETTING YOU RUN AWAY!

HELP!

THIS GUY'S OUT OF HIS MIND!

THAT'S ENOUGH! THE FIGHT'S OVER!

AGHHH!

AH!

GULP!

AREN'T YA GONNA COUNT HIM DOWN?

HEH HEH WHAT'S THE MATTER, REF?

JOE, WHAT'VE YOU DONE...

AHH..

合格者発表

2 4 7 9 10
21 25 27 28 30
33 35 36 39 41

BACK AT TANABE GYM, THE RESULTS OF THE PRO-TEST WERE POSTED OUTSIDE.

ONE WEEK LATER

I DON'T SEE YOUR #26 ANYWHERE, JOE...

HAHA... TRUE BUT AT LEAST #27'S SHINING BRIGHTLY RIGHT THERE.

27

2 4 21 25 27 28 35 36 39 44 47

CONGRATS!

LOOKS LIKE NISHI THE MAMMOTH PASSED.

HEH HEH

YOU CAN ALWAYS TAKE NEXT MONTH'S TEST.

JOE... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DISAPPOINTED ABOUT.

WHO THE HELL'S DISAPPOINTED!?

WHA!?

I WASN'T QUITE MYSELF BACK THEN.

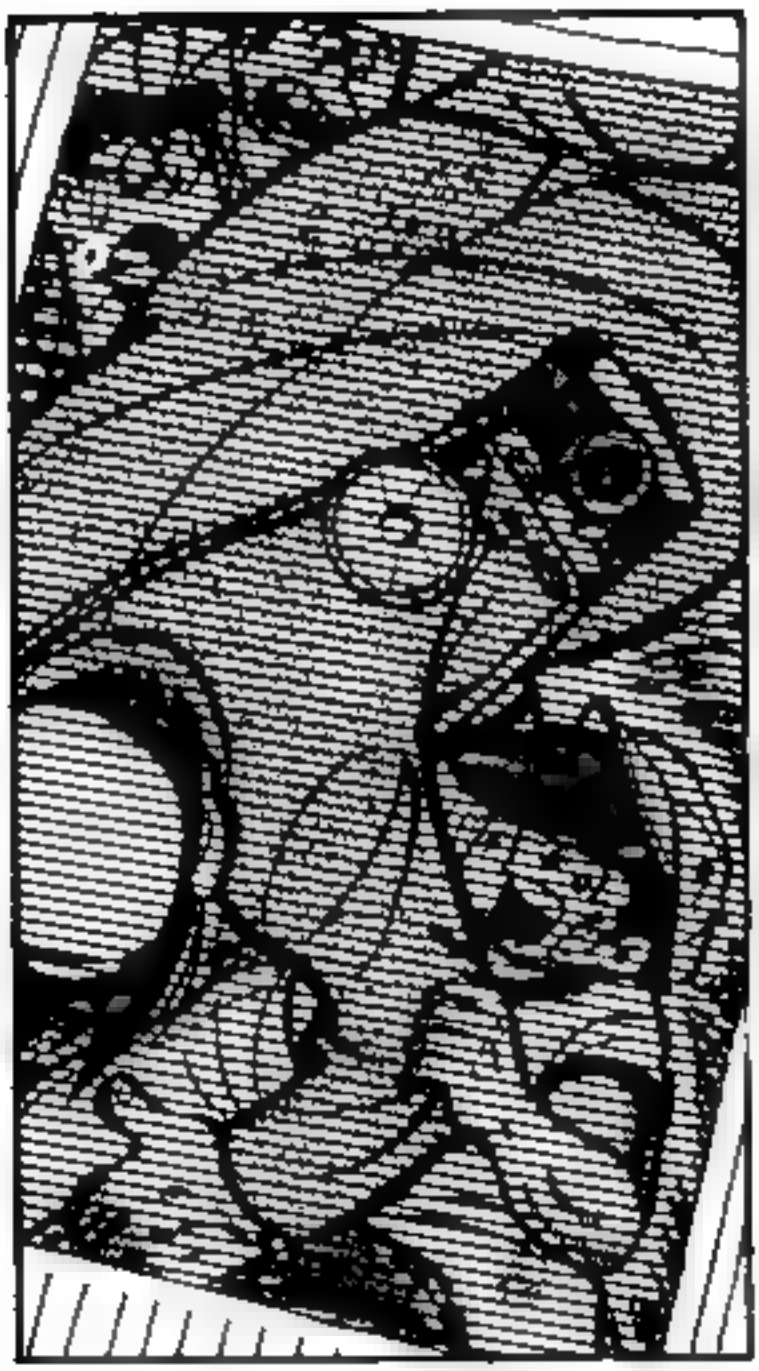
I...

THAT'S WHY I PULLED OFF THAT CRAZY STUNT BACK WHEN I SPARRED!

I WAS ACTUALLY EXPECTING TO FAIL ALL ALONG.

HEH, YOU SEE...

!!!



J-JOE!
WHO THE HELL SAID YOU COULD TAKE MY PHOTO RIGHT NOW!?
HOW I FEEL!?
OH, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I FEEL!

THE WILD BEAST FAILS HIS PRO-TEST!
THE BRAWLING GENERAL FURIOUS OVER HIS PRO-TEST RESULTS!
HE UNLEASHES HIS FURY ON THE PRESS REPORTERS.

SO HE FAILED, DID HE?

HMM.

LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HIM, CAN YOU?

HAHA... EVEN THOUGH HE TURNED YOU DOWN SO STRONGLY,

ARE YOU UPSET, GRAND-PA?

I CAN UNDERSTAND BEING ON THE NEWSPAPER FOR PASSING A PRO-TEST, BUT TO GET AN ARTICLE EVEN THOUGH HE FAILED? TALK ABOUT BEING A LOUD SHOW-OFF.

IN ANY CASE,

JUST LIKE A LOVER.

HE'S A SCARY ONE, ALRIGHT.

HM?

IT MEANS THAT HE'S A MAN WITH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF "NEWS VALUE" AS WELL.

THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT

BUT TO GO IN A PRO-TEST WITH OTHER HOT ROOKIES AND STILL COME OUT CENTER OF THE ATTENTION... NOW THAT'S A GUY TO WATCH OUT FOR.

IF HE WERE A GUY THAT PASSED THE TEST CASUALLY, I WOULDN'T FEEL A TH NG...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?

OH?

HOW JUST LIKE YABUKI! EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT GUY.

FAILING HIS TEST..

CONSIDERING HOW YOU'VE BEEN PAYING JUST AS MUCH ATTENTION ON HIS ARTICLE, I MIGHT SAY THE SAME TO YOU, MISS.

I'M QUITE SURP- RISED

TO THINK THAT EVEN *YOU* WOULD GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT THIS...

HE'S ALREADY RIGHT ON MY TAIL AGAIN.

AND WHEN HE EARNS HIS B-LEVEL LICENSE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO SKIP THE 4-ROUND LIMIT AND BE ABLE TO F GHT 6-ROUND MATCHES RIGHT FROM THE START.

HE WON'T NEED TO TAKE THAT WRITTEN EXAM A SECOND TIME SO I'M SURE THE NEXT TIME HE TAKES HIS PRO-TEST, HE'LL PASS IT LEISURELY AT HIS OWN PACE.

WELL THEN, I'LL HEAD TO SHIRAKI GYM.

HAHA...

I CAN FEEL THE STRINGS OF DESTINY PULLING US TOGETHER.

I'M NOT TIMID OR SCARED... BUT HE IS A PROBLEMATIC EXISTENCE I NEED TO PAY HEED TO.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, RIKIISHI!

COULD YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING SO TIMIDLY?

HE WANTS TO SETTLE WHAT STARTED BETWEEN US BACK IN OUR JUVIE DAYS.

BUT HE'S ALREADY MOVED UP TO A BANTAMWEIGHT CLASS.

WITH HIS PHYSIQUE, HE SHOULD NORMALLY BE A FLYWEIGHT.

HA, AS IF THAT MEANS A THING TO HIM!

HE'S A FEATHERWEIGHT WHILE YOU'RE A BANTAMWEIGHT.

DESTINY? BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THE SAME WEIGHT CLASS!

NO!

CONSIDERING THAT, IT'S ONLY FAIR FOR ME TO GO DOWN ONE WEIGHT CLASS AS WELL.

PLEASE STOP!

BOTH YOU AND GRANDPA ARE TOO FOCUSED ON YABUKI AS IF YOU'RE ADDICTED! FRANKLY, IT'S QUITE UNNERVING!

HE'LL DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE IF IT MEANS HE CAN BULK UP TO A FEATHERWEIGHT.

AND THIS IS YABUKI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'LL BE JUST PACKING A LOT OF USELESS FAT, GIVING ME THE CLEAR ADVANTAGE.

ARE YOU COMING ALONG, MISS?

THEN EXCUSE ME.

I'LL COME BY LATER.

OH.

ALRIGHT MISS, I WON'T TALK ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.

BUT,

I AM STILL GOING TO PREPARE TO SLIM MYSELF DOWN TO A BANTAMWEIGHT.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH EVERYONE!

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM!?

YABUKI THIS, YABUKI THAT

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF NEXT MONTH

AS RIKIISHI PREDICTED, JOE EASILY EARNS HIS B-LEVEL LICENSE GOING LEISURELY AT HIS OWN PACE.

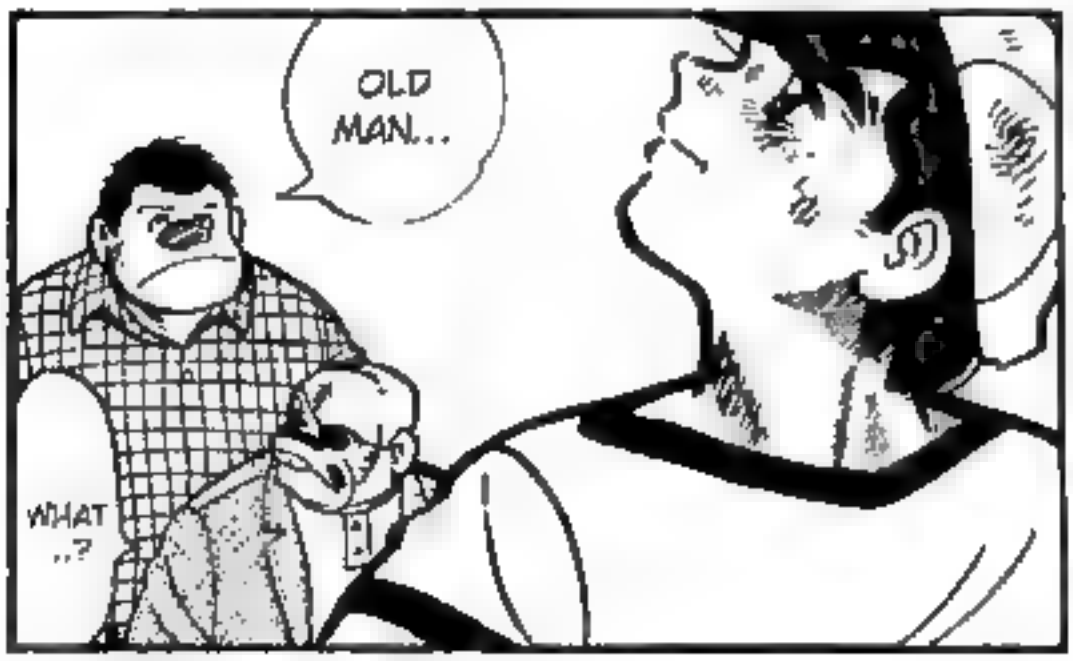
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HERE AT LAST, MISS.

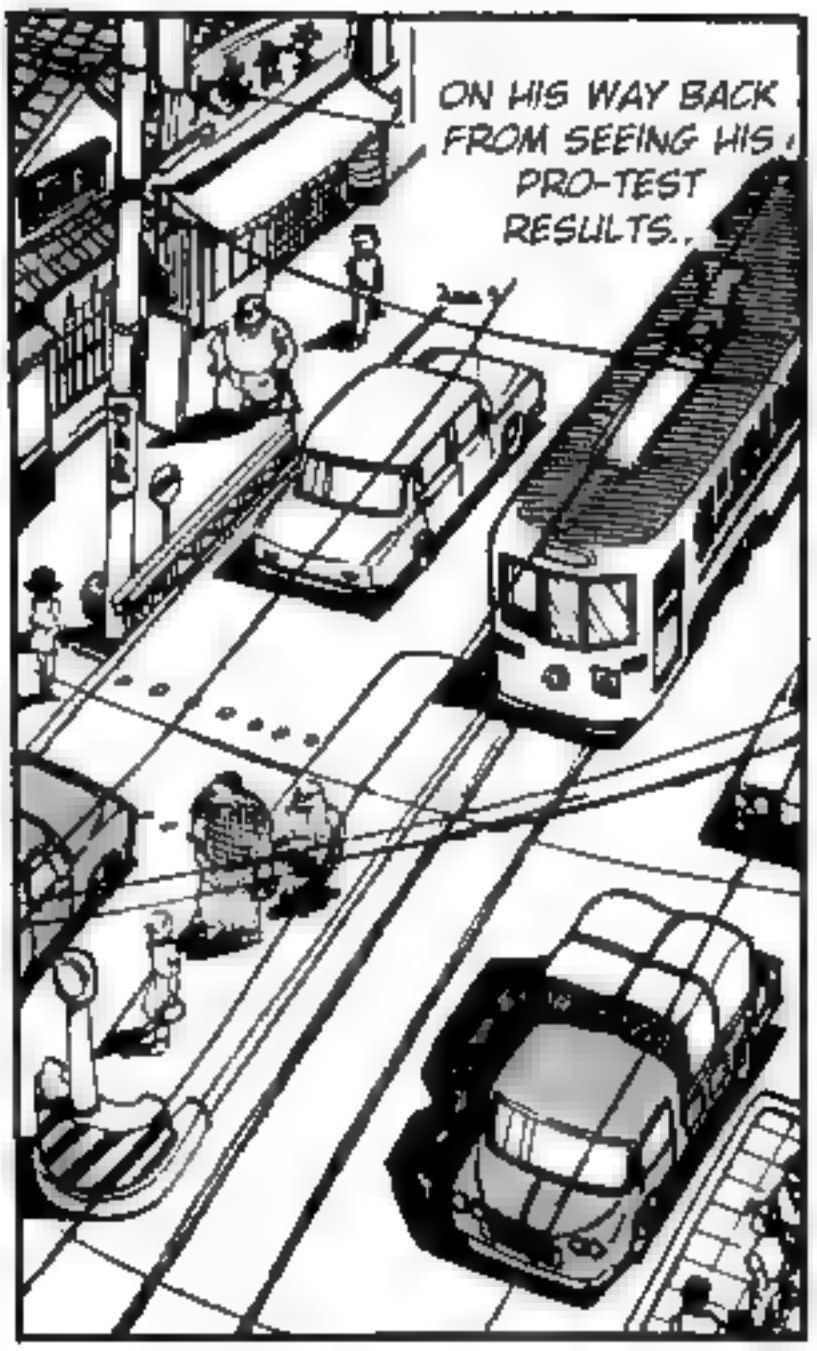
AT LAST, THE TANGE BOXING CLUB HAD SUCCEEDED IN SENDING ITS TWO BOXERS OVER THE BRIDGE TO THE PROFESSIONAL BOXING WORLD.

SO YOU FINALLY DID IT...

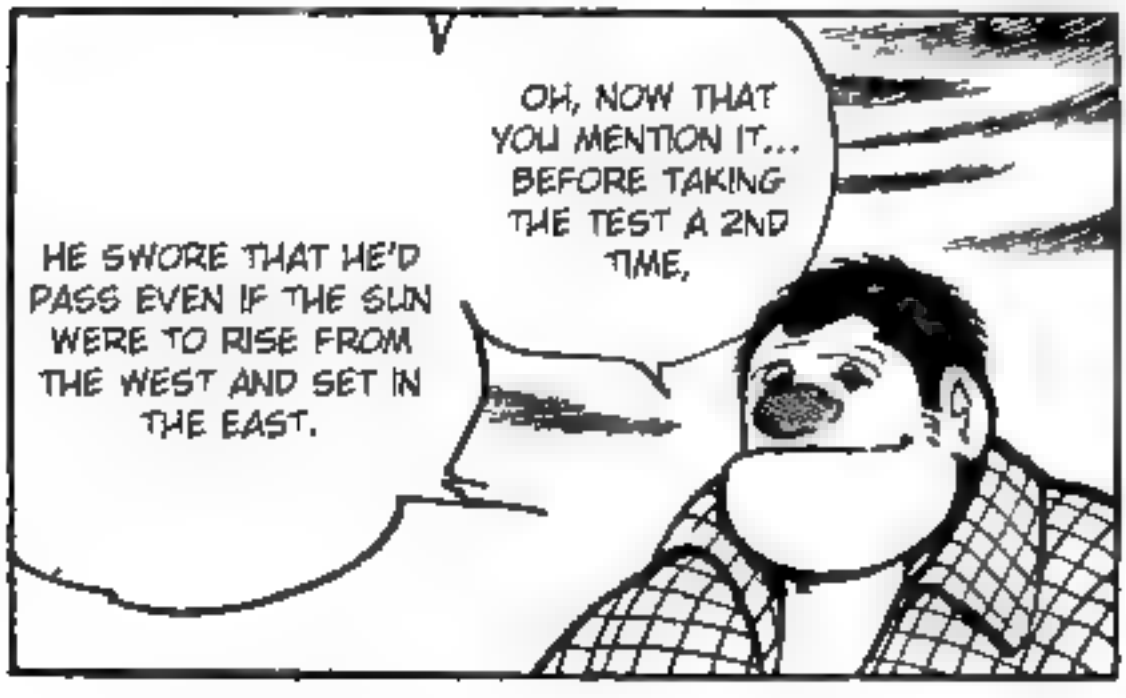
...

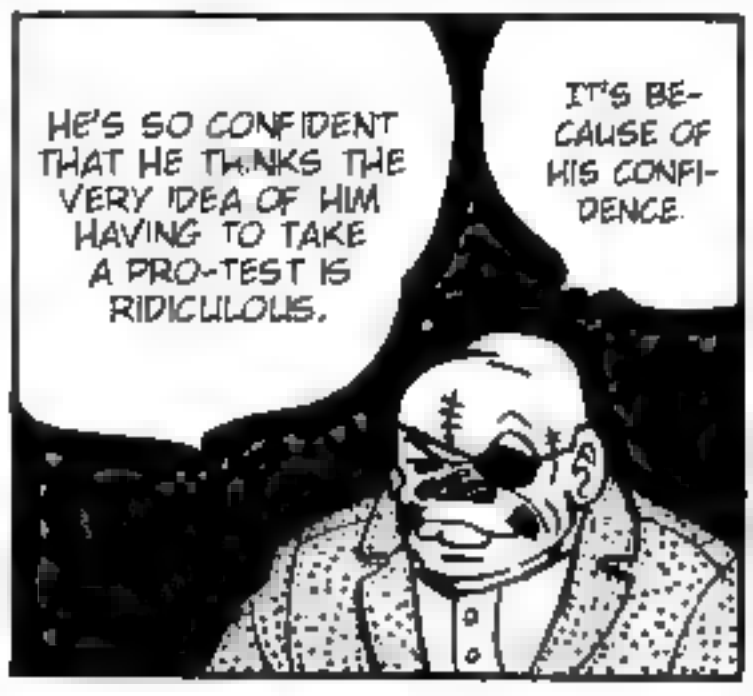
IT'S TIME, WOLF...


OLD MAN...
WHAT ..?


ON HIS WAY BACK FROM SEEING HIS PRO-TEST RESULTS..

EVEN THOUGH HE PASSED HIS TEST, HE DOESN'T LOOK HAPPY AT ALL.
IT'S ABOUT JOE.


OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... BEFORE TAKING THE TEST A 2ND TIME,
HE SWORE THAT HE'D PASS EVEN IF THE SUN WERE TO RISE FROM THE WEST AND SET IN THE EAST.


HE'S SO CONFIDENT THAT HE THINKS THE VERY IDEA OF HIM HAVING TO TAKE A PRO-TEST IS RIDICULOUS.
IT'S BE-CAUSE OF HIS CONFI-DENCE.

HMPH. I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO HIS COCKINESS EVEN NOW.

HEH.

IT'S NOTHING, NEVER MIND

N-NO.

....?

HMM? CAN'T GET USED TO WHAT?

MAMMOTH NISHI! WELCOME BACK!

CLUB OWNER TANGE!

BROTHER JOE!

AH, HE'S HERE!

WE HEARD IT FROM THE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS WHO CAME BY TANGE GYM EARLIER!

WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?

WORD SURE GETS AROUND QUICK. DOESN'T IT

ALL THE NEIGHBOUR-HOOD FOLKS HAVE COME TOO!

IT'S NOT JUST THEM.

THEY CAME BY AGAIN?

RE-PORT-ERS?

WE HEARD YOU PASSED YOUR PRO-TEST!

CONGRATU-LATIONS!

KONGRA-JOOLAS-HUN!

THEY'RE ALL HERE TO CELEBRATE MISTER'S LICENSE AND NISHI AND YOU PASSING YOUR PRO-TESTS!

THE NEIGH-BOURS.. ?

HURRY HURRY!

EVERYONE'S JUST DYIN' TO SEE YA!

C'MON, HURRY BACK!

AHHH!

AH...

AHH!

C'MON!

WALK FASTER!

THE OWNER OF THE HAYASHI STORE AND NORIKO ARE HERE TOO...

WHOA...

高円ハウス

HEY LOOK! THE 3 MEN OF THE HOUR ARE HERE AT LAST!

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

WELCOME BACK! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US STARTING THE PARTY BEFORE YOU GOT HERE!

SOMEONE GO ORDER SOME SUSHI, TEMPURA OR WHATEVER!

I DON'T THINK THIS'LL BE ENOUGH FOOD.

HAHAHA! CONGRATULATIONS!

HEE HEE!

A ONE-TWO! LALALALALA!

D-DAD...

DON'CHA THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE?

HEY NISHI! JOE! YOU BOXIN' NUTS!

OH DEAR.. THE TOWNFOLKS HERE SURE LOVE TO PARTY AT ANY CHANCE THEY GET.

W-WHA ..

AIN'T THIS THE BEST, BROTHER JOE?

WELL WE OUGHTA CELEBRATE, OWNER TANGE! AND FOR YOU TWO FELLAS TOO.

YOU'RE A FULLY-FLEDGED BOXING CLUB OWNER NOW, AREN'T YOU TANGE?

AND DON'T CALL THEM BOXING NUTS, DAD IT'S RUDE.

COME ON, MAMMOTH NISHI! LET'S JOIN THE PARTY!

JEEZ, DAD. YOU'RE SUCH A BAD DRUNK.

I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS BABY UP FOR A DAY LIKE THIS!

SURE THING!

LIGHT A BIG ONE, WON'T YA?

HEY YOU! THE ONE IN CHARGE OF FIREWORKS!

ポイ

MOVE IT, KIDS!

ALRIGHT, STAND BACK FOLKS! IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAND SO CLOSE!

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C'MON, OUT WITH THE BIG GUNS!

WHAT KINDA FIREWORKS IS THAT! I SAID LIGHT A BIG ONE, NOT A PUNY ONE!

O-OK...

ヒュヒュヒュ

HOLD ON TO YOUR BUTTS!

I'LL LIGHT ALL THIS THEN!

HOLY CRAP!

AHHHHHH!

BUT IT WAS NICE, EH?

MAYBE THE GUNPOWDER RATIO WAS A LITTLE TOO HIGH...

I JUST KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

TOO NICE, YOU BLOCKHEAD!

COUGH COUGH

UGH, THAT WAS BAD...

TRANSLATOR NOTES

FLAGS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT READ:
CONGRATUALTIONS ON TANGE BOXING CLUB'S OFFICIAL LICENSE
CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING THE PRO-TEST, JOE!
CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING THE PRO-TEST MAMMOTH NISHI!
CROSS THAT BRIDGE NOT WITH TEARS BUT WITH SMILES!
AIM TO BE THE WORLD CHAMPION!
CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT TO THE PROFESSIONAL BOXING WORLD!
LEAD WITH YOUR PUNCH, TANGE CLUB MEMBERS!

I WAS WAITING FOR THIS!

ALRIGHT!

I MADE THIS BANNER JUST FOR TODAY!

LET'S SHOW THE BANNERS!

ENOUGH WITH THE FIRE-WORKS!

RAISE 'EM!

NOTE. REFER TO THE TRANSLATOR NOTES FOR FULL DETAIL OF WHAT THE BANNERS SAY.

TODAY'S A DAY WE OUGHTA CELE-BRATE!

WELL YOU THREE DESERVE IT!

QUITE A SIGHT, RIGHT?

WELL, WHADDYA THINK?

AHH...

OH!
YOU WERE BASICALLY ABLE TO FLY RIGHT OVER THAT BRIDGE!

I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD WHO'VE CROSSED THAT METAPHORICAL BRIDGE OF TEARS BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES TO OVERCOME YOUR TROUBLES WITH EYES STILL FULL OF HOPE!
WELL, ISN'T IT?
A DAY TO CELEB-RATE ..?

EXACTLY!
SO GIVE IT YOUR ALL, YOU THREE!
AM I RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE VERY HOPE OF US POOR FOLKS WHO MAY BE A LITTLE DOWN IN THE DUMPS.
THIS IS THE JOY OF OUR ENTIRE TOWN!
IT'S NO LONGER THE JOY OF YOU THREE ALONE.
THE ENTIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WILL BE CHEERING YOU ON!

I CAN FEEL THE PRESSURE ON MY SHOULDERS ALREADY!
PSH, WE ONLY PASSED OUR PRO-TEST. WITH ALL THIS TALK ABOUT HOPE AND WHATNOT,

Y-YEAH ...
YOU BETTER TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

DAD... I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SPARE THE LECTURE AND JUST THROW A FUN PARTY.

DON'T EVER FORGET THAT THE ENTIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD IS COUNTING ON YOU THREE! SO DO YOUR BEST, YOU HEAR?

YES! YOUR SHOULDERS SHOULD FEEL HEAVY!

BUT HOLD ON A SECOND.

YES, THE FESTIVITIES ARE FINE AND ALL,

SO LET'S JUST ENJOY THE *FESTIVITIES!*

RIGHT, RIGHT, I'LL SKIP THE BORING TALK FOR NOW.

...

DID THEY GO BACK ALREADY?

HMM, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T SEE 'EM ANYWHERE.

I THOUGHT THE REPORTERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TOO BUT WHERE ARE THEY?

HEH HEH.

BUT THEY JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN.

I UHH... TOLD THESE GUYS TO CUT IT OUT.

RAN AWAY ...?

THEY KINDA RAN AWAY.

OH WELL.

BUT JUST THEN ALL THE FOLKS CAME BY HERE TOO, HEARING THE GOOD NEWS AND. . WELL, I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

ドドドドー

THREATEN OR HARASS THEM...?

D-DID YOU...

WHAT HAPPENED WAS UMM..' THOSE REPORTERS CAME WITH THEIR FANCY CARS, WAITING FOR YOU TO COME SO THEY CAN INTER-VIEW YOU.

WE TOOK THE R FANCY CAMERAS, PENS, AND EVEN THEIR PANTS! HAHAHAHA!

THREATEN? GOOD HEAVENS, NO! THERE WASN'T EVEN TIME FOR THAT. THE FOLKS WERE BUSY DISMANTLING THEIR CARS BEFORE THOSE REPORTERS REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON.

YES, EXACTLY! NOW ON WITH THE *FESTIVITIES!*

WE WERE ABLE TO BUY THE FOOD AND DRINKS THANKS TO THE MONEY EARNED FROM SELL NG THEIR STUFF

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A LAUGHING MATTER... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE DOING THAT.

OH BOY...

WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. LET'S NOT MAKE A BIG FUSS ABOUT THE PAST.

...?

NORIKO, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD SOME PRESENTS FOR THESE 3?

OH THAT'S RIGHT

A HAT! OH!

I MADE IT FROM AN OLD BLANKET... DOES IT FIT?

HM, WHAT'S THIS?

UMM... THIS IS FOR YOU, MR. DANPEI.

HAHA!

WHY YOU LITTLE!

AHAHA!

HAHAHA.

SIS NORIKO SURE IS CARING. THE OLD MAN'S BARE HEAD NEEDED SOME PROTECTION, A-RIGHT.

IT'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THE STRONG SUMMER SUN...

SO I MADE YOU.

SINCE YOU'RE NOW PROFESSIONAL BOXERS, YOU CAN'T EXACTLY GO OUT ON THE RING WEARING REGULAR SPORT PANTS...

WHAT IS IT?

YOU! GOT PRESENTS FOR US TOO?

AND THESE ARE FOR YOU TWO...

WHAT A THOUGHTFUL PRESENT!

IT EVEN HAS OUR INITIALS!

OH!

LOOK, SHE'S BLUSHING.

BOXING BRIEFS.

B-B...

HAHAHA.

QUIET!

OWIE.

AHAHA HAHA!

CALLING THEM BRIEFS IS A BIT AWKWARD.

BUT YOU KNOW SIS, THEY'RE CALLED BOXING TRUNKS.

OK... LET'S GO IN AND CHANGE, JOE.

SURE ...

LET'S SHOW THE FOLKS YOUR GALLANT BOXING POSES.

GO PUT THOSE ON, YOU TWO.

SEE THAT? ISN'T MY DAUGHTER THE BEST? HAHAHA..

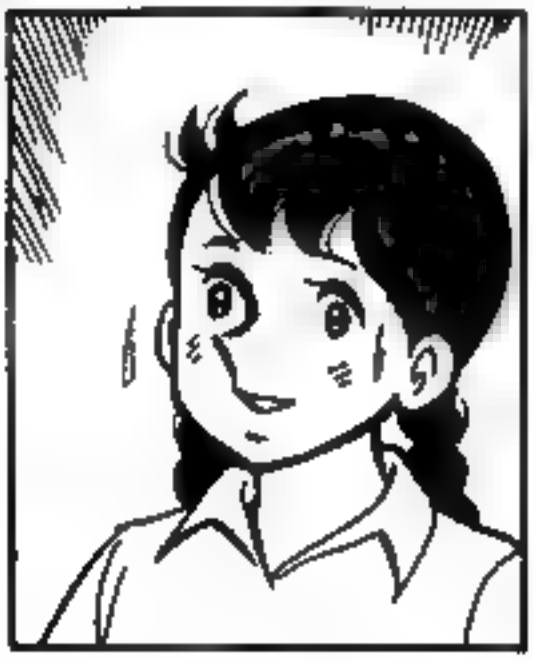
HEY, WORLD CHAMP!

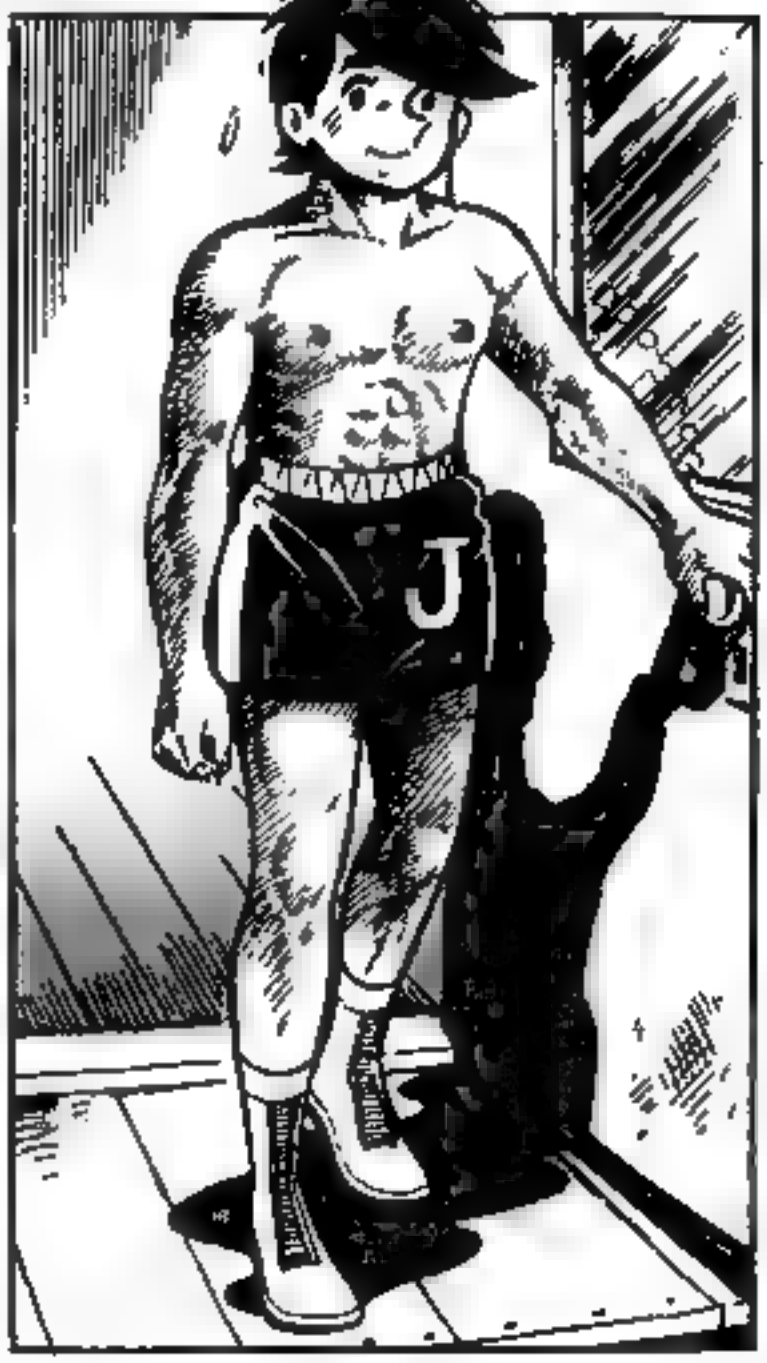
IT'S A PERFECT FIT!

OHHH! AIN'T HE LOOKING SWELL!

WHERE'S NISHI?

HMM?





EVERYONE'S WAITING TO SEE YOU!

COME ON OUT!

BUT IT'S...

WHAT IS HE, A KID?

EMBARRASED?

HE'S NOT COMING OUT BECAUSE HE'S EMBARRASSED.

YOU CAN'T GET ANY HEAVY-WEIGHT FIGHTS IN JAPAN.

NISH MAY BE A HEAVYWEIGHT BUT...

NO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

OH ...

SO YOU GOT HIM THE PERFECT GIFT, NORIKO.

HE'LL HAVE TO SLIM DOWN TO A LOWER WEIGHT CLASS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HAH! SO UNCOOL!

IT'S A LITTLE TIGHT, NORIKO...

S-SORRY I THOUGHT I MADE IT BIG ENOUGH BUT I GUESS IT WAS STILL TOO SMALL. I'LL FIX IT RIGHT AWAY.

AHAHAHA!

OH HOW FANCY! THIS'LL BE THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE THAT I HAD MY PICTURE TAKEN!

SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!

OH, THAT'S THE CAMERA THOSE REPORTERS GAVE US EARLIER RIGHT?

NOW THAT YOU TWO ARE IN YOUR BOXING TRUNKS, LET'S TAKE SOME COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOS!

THE GYM...?

HE WENT INSIDE THE GYM!

HM?

WHERE'D JOE GO?

YAHH!

HAH!

HAHH!

THERE HE IS!

OH...

WHAT'S WITH YOU? ARE YOU THAT HAPPY TO HAVE GOTTEN THOSE BOXING TRUNKS FROM NORIKO?

DAMN IT.

I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S NOT IT

LIAR, LIAR, PANT'S ON FIRE!

HEE HEE

LOOK, HIS FACE IS GETTING REDDER AND REDDER!

IT IS, IT IS!

N-NO! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!

HMM, YOU SEE...

W-WELL IT'S...

ALRIGHT, TELL US THEN!

HEY! AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

YEAH, WHAT IS IT?

...

THAT'S WHAT I'M HAPPY ABOUT...

I'VE FINALLY PASSED AT SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT'S JUST BOXING ALONE.

BUT...

UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FAILURE AT EVERYTHING I TRIED.

MY CHANCE TO ACHIEVE MY DREAMS WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

BUT NOW, I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN MY CHANCE.

I'VE LIVED SUCH A PATHETIC LIFE, MARKED BY FAILURES AND ABANDONED BY LUCK.

IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL...

YES...

AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE TIME NORIKO GAVE YOU THOSE **BOXING BRIEFS.**

O-OK...

BUT NO MATTER THE HARDSHIPS WE FACE IN THE FUTURE, LET'S NEVER FORGET ABOUT HOW WE FELT RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

I KNOW OUR JOURNEY'S ONLY JUST BEGUN.

BEFORE LONG, THE SUN SET.

ボボボボ…

JUST BECAUSE WE LAUGHED ONCE DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO KEEP MAKING STUPID WISECRACKS!

GET HIM!

THIS LITTLE BRAT'S BEEN RUINING THE MOOD ALL DAY!

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TEACH HIM A LESSON!

AND A GREAT FULL MOON ROSE OVER THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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YAHOO!

AND UNDER THE FULL MOON, THE PARTY CONTINUED

林食料品店
(1990)
WELCOME! YOU WANTED 4 EGGS, MA'AM?
2 BAGS OF NOODLES, PLEASE.
HERE YOU GO, MA'AM!
COULD YOU PLEASE HURRY IT UP? I'M AFRAID MY STEW MIGHT BE BOILING AT HOME ALREADY.

WHAT?

HEY YOU, OVER THERE.

OH I WANT TO GO~

CHARMED BY A GOAT~

THIS?

ヌウッ

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO BE LEISURELY SINGING TO YOURSELF, THEN GET ME 2 PICKLED DAICONS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT?

SO YOU WANTED SOME PICKLED DAICON?

SORRY ABOUT THAT, MA'AM.

MY KIDS ARE ALL SO PICKY ABOUT THEIR FOOD.

OH, TELL ME ABOUT IT!

MUST BE QUITE HARD COOKING FOR ALL YOUR CHILDREN.

WHY DON'T YOU GO AND WIPE THE DUST OFF OF THE CANNED GOODS, JOE?

T-THAT'S ENOUGH, I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

THAT EMPLOYEE IS ALWAYS SO CARELESS...

JEEZ...

CAN I GET ONE BAG OF THAT, PLEASE?

HERE'S YOUR DAICON. THAT'LL BE 35 YEN.

YES, IT MUST BE VERY HARD.

TRYING TO COOK DIFFERENT MENUS FOR EVERYONE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HEAD SPIN.

ALL SHE EVER BUYS IS PICKLED DAICON.

PSH! PICKY, MY ASS.

COULD YOU PLEASE WIPE THOSE CANS, ALREADY!?

J-JOE...

I WONDER SHE EVEN KNOWS WHAT A MENU IS! HEH HEH...

HOW MANY DIFFERENT MENUS CAN YOU EVEN MAKE FROM THAT?

ALWAYS HAVING TO DEAL WITH THOSE WRINKLED OLD WOMEN...

POOR NISHI.

は!?

YEAH, YEAH, I'M ON IT!

KNOCK IT OFF, JOE...

EH, MAYBE THAT'S HIS TALENT..

THEY CAN HEAR YOU..

WHAT DID YOU PUSH ME FOR!?

ガガガ

AGHHH!

AHH!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS FROM HERE SO WHY DON'T YOU GO INSIDE AND HELP MAKE THE PAPER BAGS.

UHH

'SCUUUSE ME!

YEAH, YEAH, I'LL GO INSIDE.

GOT A LITTLE DIS-TRACTED...

S-SORRY ...

I'M NOT HERE TO BABYSIT YOU!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEVER DEVOTE YOURSELF SERIOUSLY TO ANYTHING THAT YOU GET DISTRACTED SO EASILY!

UMM...

A-ALRIGHT, MA'AM..

I PROMISE I'LL BE MORE SERIOUS.

YOU NEED TO BE MORE SERIOUS!

WEL-COME HOME.

OH, NORIKO.

I'M HOME!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! YOU'RE SUCH A HOPE-LESS BOY!

AHHH! ISN'T THIS TODAY'S NEWSPAPER!?

I TOLD YOU TO LOOK AT THE DATES BEFORE YOU START CUTTING!

HA, ARE YOU BEING SCOLDED AGAIN?

GUESS EVEN YABUKI'S HELPLESS AGAINST MY MOM.

HMPH, I WONDER WHY ON EARTH I'M STILL THIS BUSY EVEN THOUGH WE HIRED MORE HANDS TO HELP AROUND THE SHOP!?

ALRIGHT, JUST LET ME CHANGE MY CLOTHES FIRST.

NORIKO, BE A DEAR AND WATCH OVER THIS KID.

THE SHOP'S PACKED WITH CUSTOMERS RIGHT NOW SO I NEED TO GO OUT AND HELP.

KID...?

GEEZ... FINE, I'LL BE MORE SERIOUS...

NORI-KO!?

NORIKO! WHAT TIME IS IT RIGHT NOW!?

DON'T PEEP!

KYAA!

A TELEVISED BOXING MATCH...

BETWEEN RIKIISHI AND YOSHIZAWA...?

YOU WANTED THE FUKUJINZUKE, RIGHT? YES, YES, COMING RIGHT UP!

AS USUAL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

HERE'S YOUR TWO FISH ROLLS.

THAT'LL BE 45 YEN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

AND YOU WANTED THE DRIED FISH, RIGHT?

TWO DEEP-FRIED TOFU AND 3 UDON-DAMA... SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

THANK YOU.

ANOTHER HOT DAY TODAY...

WHEW...

SEEMS LIKE TODAY'S BATTLE IS FINALLY OVER.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

NO,NO

YOU'VE BEEN A TREMENDOUS HELP.

THANKS AGAIN, NISHI.

I'M SORRY..

AND HE CAN BE SO DISRESPECTFUL TO THE CUSTOMERS.

HE'S EITHER SLACKING OFF OR MAKING THINGS WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE.

YOUR FRIEND THERE IS QUITE A HANDFUL.

CAN YOU STILL SAY HE'S TRYING HIS HARDEST NOW!?

THEN WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE AND TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN.

WELL, WELL, WELL.

HE'S TRYING HIS BEST IN HIS OWN WAY TOO.

DON'T BE SO JUDGMENTAL, DEAR.

HE'S DRIVEN YOSHIZAWA BACK TO THE ROPES! AND IT LOOKS AS IF YOSHIZAWA'S FEET ARE DEAD-TIRED!

RIKIISHI HAS ONE-SIDEDLY TAKEN CONTROL OF THE MATCH!

YOU'RE BEING TOO LENIE...

ALRIGHT!

YEAH! RIGHT THERE, RIKIISHI! GIVE'IM AN UPPERCUT!

JOE...

A-AND I DID YABUKI'S SHARE OF THE BAG-MAKING TOO SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM..

YABUKI'S FRIEND IS ON TV AND HE HAD TO WATCH NO MATTER WHAT.

PLEASE DON'T GET MAD, MOM.

RIKIISHI'S GOTTEN BETTER AGAIN.

DID YOU SEE HIM, NISHI?

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE MAKES HIS MARK ON THE JAPANESE FEATHERWEIGHT RANKINGS

HE'S ALREADY A PRIME CONTENDER.

THE TWO OF US HAVE JUST BARELY BECOME PRO-BOXERS.

COMPARED TO THAT,

AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, HE'LL BE CHALLENGING THE PAN ASIAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONS.

AND ONCE HE BECOMES RANKED, HE'LL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE NATIONAL CHAMPION...

...

WELL, NISHI?

WHEN DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MATCHES?

HEY,

ALRIGHT, I GET IT! SO LET'S JUST DROP IT ALREADY!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW AWKWARD IT IS FOR ME, SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED YOU.

YOU BETTER...

YOU DON'T NEED TO SCOWL AT ME.

YEAH, I KNOW!

I PROMISE I'LL BE MORE SERIOUS TOMORROW.

DIDN'T I APOLOGIZE EARLIER ALREADY!?

IF I SAID I GOT IT, I GOT IT!

FOR GOD'S SAKE...

W-WAIT FOR ME!

ドス ドス ドス ドス

AHHH! I JUST CAN'T SIT STILL AFTER THAT MATCH.

I'M GOING ON AHEAD.

LET'S RUN BACK TO THE GYM AND DO SOME TRAINING!

HEY!

HMM... HE MUST BE WORKING OVER-TIME AGAIN.

GUESS HE'S NOT BACK YET.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK LATELY SO ALL THE LABOURERS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND.

HUFF HUFF

WE'RE HOME.

IT'S PITCH BLACK...

YOU'RE SUCH A WET-BLANKET.

HMPH.

I'M PRACTICALLY STARVING TO DEATH OVER HERE.

I GOTTA GET MYSELF SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE THAT.

HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

AREN'T YOU GONNA GET CHANGED SO WE CAN DO THE TRAINING EXER-CISES?

O-OLD MAN!

IN THE MEAN-WHILE, I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO GO AND DO SOME ROADWORK.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL COOK YOU GUYS SOMETHING.

JUST GO DO YOUR ROAD WORK.

WELL AIN'T THIS A FEAST! SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TODAY?

WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF YOU BOUGHT?

SO YOU WEREN'T WORKING OVERTIME, I SEE.

AH, YOU'RE BACK.

BREAD, LEMON, BLACK TEA...

DON'T WE USUALLY DO THE FUNDA-MENTALS AND STRETCHING EXERCISES AT NIGHT?

BUT WE ALREADY DID THE ROAD WORK THIS MORNING BEFORE LEAVING FOR WORK.

HUH?

BECAUSE THE MATCHES FOR THE TWO OF YOU HAVE BEEN SET.

BE HAPPY.

....?

TODAY'S DIFFERENT.

DE-BUT!?

MY...

AH...

YOUR DEBUT WILL BE AT KOURAKUEN HALL. NISHI'S SCHEDULED FOR A 4-ROUND MATCH, AND A 6-ROUND MATCH FOR JOE.

21ST OF NEXT MONTH.

W-WHEN IS IT!?

W-WHA! REALLY!?

HMMM?

HAVEN'T HEARD OF HIM BEFORE...

MURASE TAKEO

W...

WHO AM I FIGHTING!?

YOU WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE GOTTEN A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT AGAINST WOLF ONLY BECAUSE YOU TOOK HIM BY SURPRISE OUTSIDE THE RINGS.

A BOXING MATCH IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR REGULAR STREET BRAWL.

DON'T GET COCKY.

WHEN ARE YOU GONNA SET ME UP WITH RIKIISHI OR WOLF?

HEY,

HE'S JUST A STUPID LITTLE RUNT!

HMPH, BIG BAD WOLF MY ASS!

HE'S CALLED THE WOLF FOR A REASON. HIS CLAWS AND FANGS AIN'T NOTHING TO LAUGH AT.

IF IT WERE AN OFFICIAL MATCH AND HE WAS FULLY PREPARED OUT ON THE RING WITH HIS GLOVES.

THAT'D NEVER HAPPEN,

AH, NISHI. WAIT.

CHANGE INTO THIS

ARE YOU GONNA DO YOUR ROAD WORK OR NOT!?

O-OK...

. . .

THANKS AGAIN.

THE ONE I'M WEARING RIGHT NOW IS IN TATTERS SO I'VE BEEN WANTING A NEW ONE FOR SOME TIME NOW.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

IT'S A BRAND NEW TRAINING SHIRT AND PANTS!

AHHH!

THEN GOOD.

BUT THESE ARE SO THICK AND HEAVY THAT I SWEAT BUCKETS EVEN IF I MOVE JUST A LITTLE!

YOU CAN STILL USE THOSE FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

AREN'T YOUR CLOTHES STILL FAIRLY NEW?

WHAT ABOUT ME?

I THINK THIS IS A LITTLE TOO IDEAL...

チェーッ チェーッ

THAT'S IDEAL.

A BOXER SHOULD WANT TO SWEAT OFF AS MUCH WEIGHT AS POSSIBLE SO HE FEELS LIGHT AS A FEATHER.

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT THICK CLOTHES TO HELP HIM SWEAT OFF HIS WEIGHT.

HE NEEDS TO SLIM DOWN TO A MIDDLEWEIGHT BEFORE HIS MATCH.

THAT'S WHY I BOUGHT NEW ONES FOR NISHI.

AH..

YOU DAMN BRATS COMPLAIN TOO MUCH!

I MEAN, IT'S THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER RIGHT NOW BUT I LOOK LIKE I'M READY TO GO TO THE SOUTH POLE!

IT'S... WAY TOO HOT.

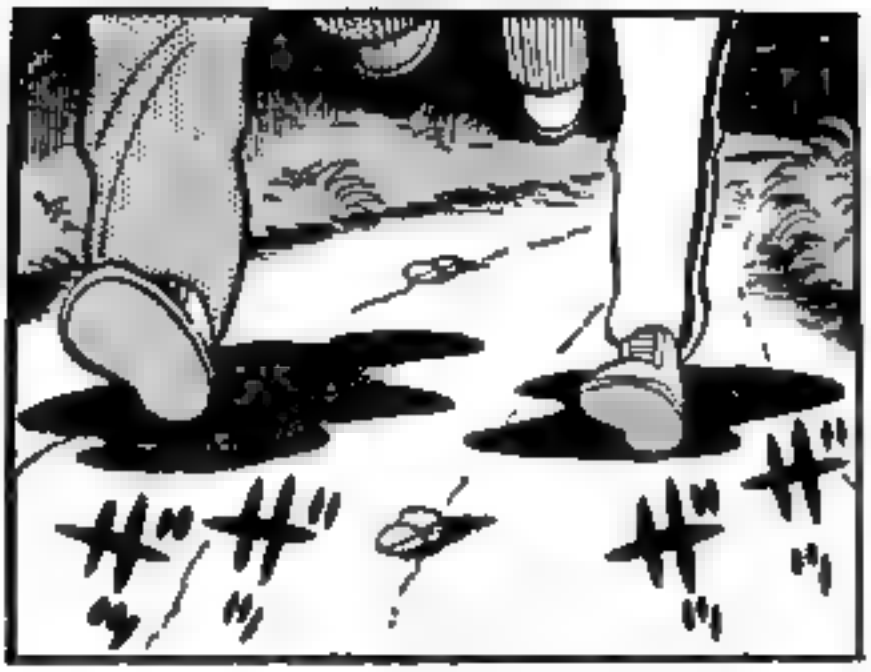
HAHA!

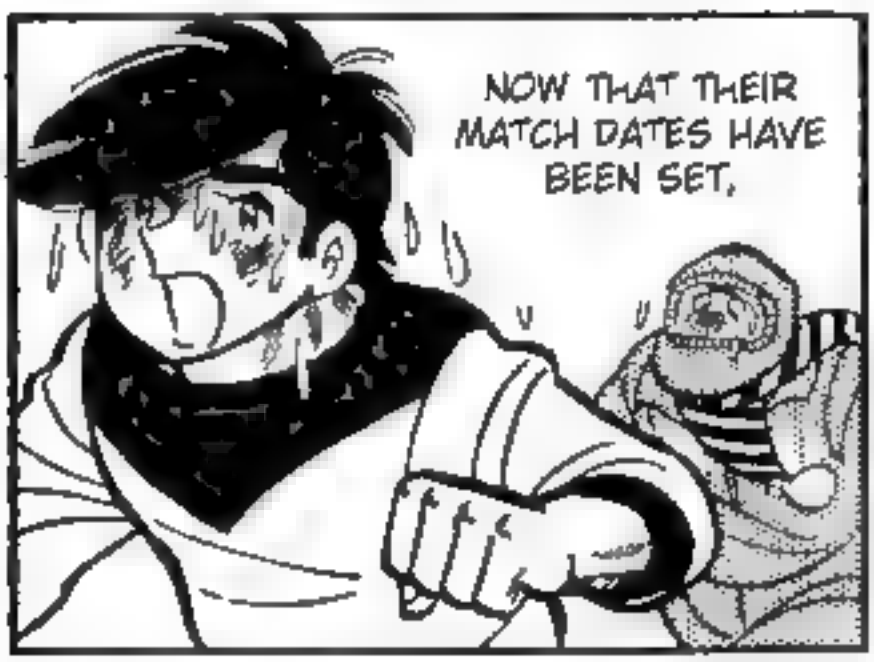
AGHHH!

ACK!

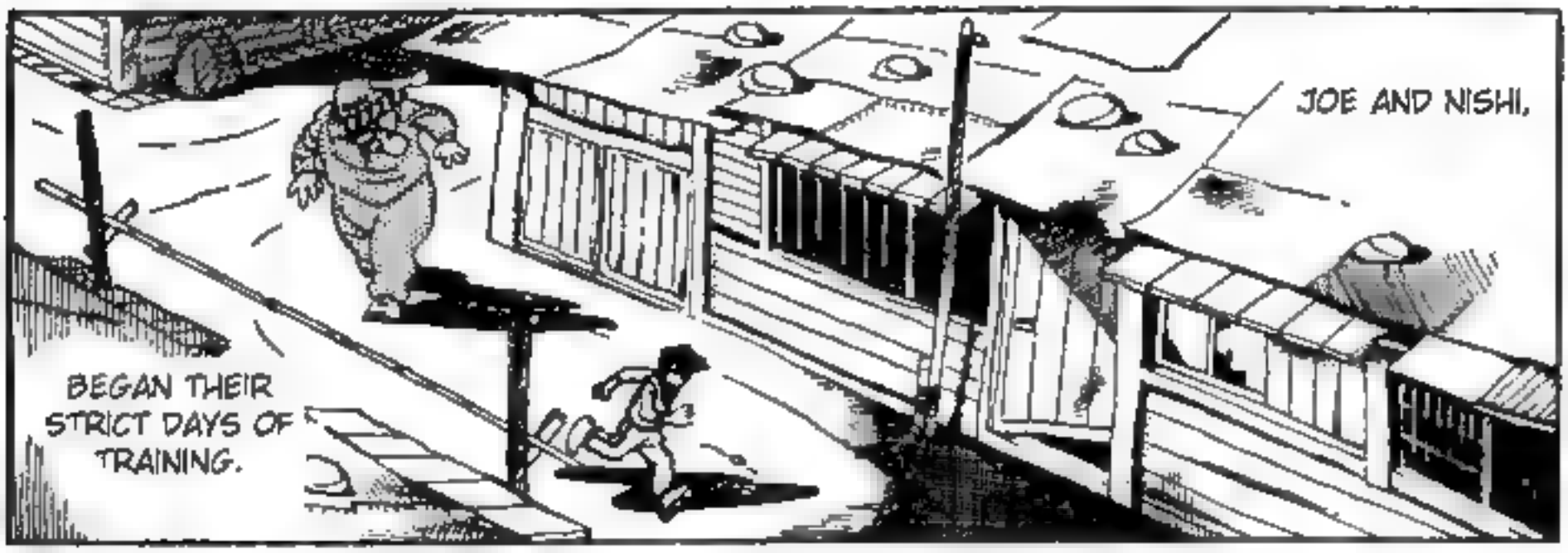
KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH AND IGNORING MY ADVICE LIKE THAT, AND I'LL CUT YOU UP!

W-WE'RE GOING, WE'RE GOING!




NOW THAT THEIR MATCH DATES HAVE BEEN SET,

TALK ABOUT DE-RANGED...
THAT OLD MAN AIN'T JOKING...


JOE AND NISHI,
BEGAN THEIR STRICT DAYS OF TRAINING.

GRUELLING ROAD WORK,

PANT
PANT
PANT
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF

AND HARSH LESSONS.

EXHALSTING TRAINING.

PULL IN YOUR JAW!

YOU'RE HERE TO BOX, NOT DANCE!

THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

DID YOU ALREADY FORGET WHAT I TAUGHT YOU!?

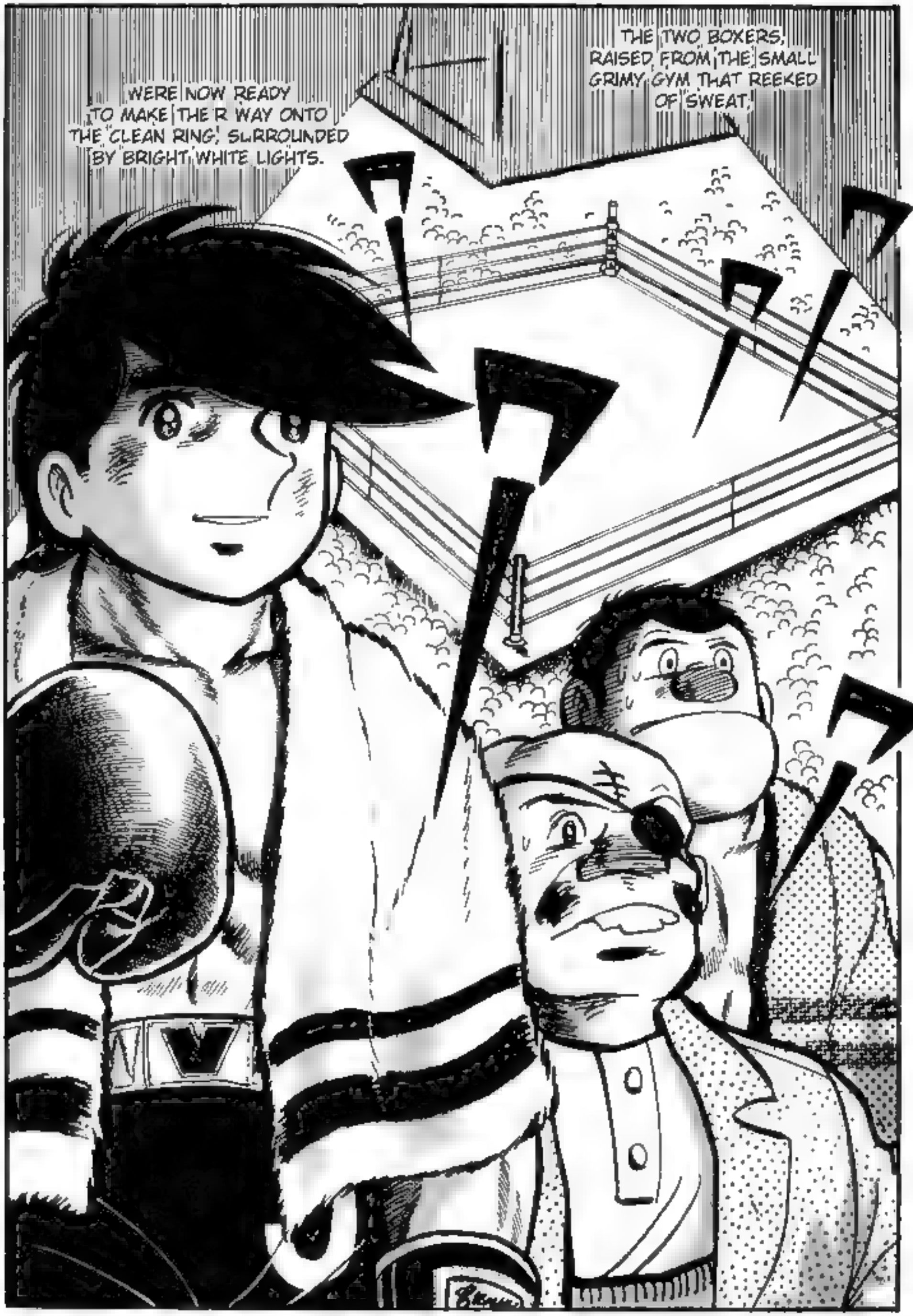
DO IT AGAIN!

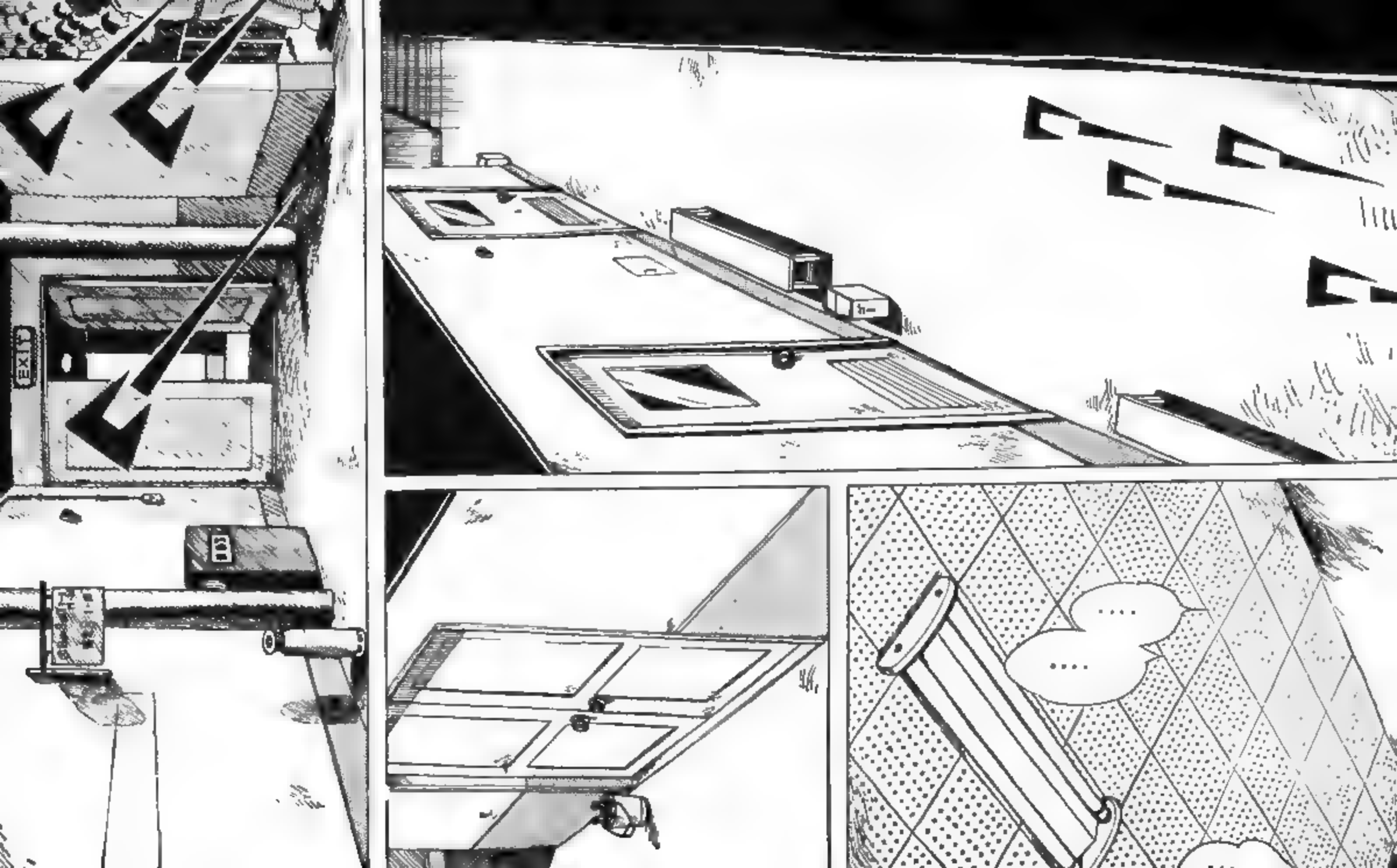
NISHI, GET IN THE RING!

NEXT UP!

....

AND AT LAST...


WERE NOW READY TO MAKE THE R WAY ONTO THE "CLEAN RING", SURROUNDED BY BRIGHT WHITE LIGHTS.
THE TWO BOXERS, RAISED FROM THE SMALL GRIMY GYM THAT REEKED OF SWEAT.


EXIT
....
....

シュッ
シュッ
MUMBLE MUMBLE
WHISPER WHISPER

LALALA LA LA~
SURE.
HEY, JOE, IT'S ALMOST TIME.
PUT ON THE GLOVES FOR NISHI.
YO MAMMOTH, PUT YOUR HANDS OUT.
LALALA...
OK...
SO DON'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO GAUGE WHAT THE OTHER GUY'S GONNA DO AND FIGHT AT YOUR OWN PACE.
LISTEN UP, NISHI. ROUND FOUR CAN FLY BY REAL QUICK RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
HOW'S YOUR STAMINA?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE THINNED OUT QUITE A BIT AFTER THAT RIGOROUS WEIGHT LOSS.
BUT TRY TO RELAX AND PRETEND LIKE IT'S PRACTICE. IF YOU TENSE UP, YOU'LL LOSE.
AND I KNOW THIS MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE CONSIDERING IT'S YOUR FIRST MATCH AND ALL.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
STAMINA WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
HA, IT'S ONLY FOUR ROUNDS.
AAAND DONE!
O-OK.
DOO DOO DAH DAH

THE LIVELY ONE OVER THERE!
HEY YOU!
AND RELAX YOUR HIPS.
NOW, LIE FACE DOWN.
OK.
THAT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR!
GOOD.
HAVING YOU SHADOW BOX AND HUM LOUDLY IN SUCH A CRAMPED ROOM LIKE THIS IS QUITE DISTRACTING TO THE OTHER BOXERS, SO COULD YOU PLEASE STOP?
LET ME JUST TELL YOU NOW THAT THIS ISN'T YOUR PRIVATE CHANGING ROOM.
MAINTAINING PROPER ETIQUETTE IN A PUBLIC PLACE LIKE THIS IS IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW...

WHAT ...?
IF YOU ASK ME, A DEAD SILENT ROOM MAKES IT MUCH HARDER FOR FIGHTERS TO CALM DOWN.
OH?
SO IT'S VERY TROUBLING HAVING SOME-ONE CAUSE DISTRACTIONS.
ALL THE FIGHTERS HERE IN THE CHANGING ROOM ARE TRYING THEIR BEST TO STAY CALM AND FOCUSED ONLY ON THE MATCH.
J-JOE! THAT'S ENOUGH!
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT YOU GUYS REMIND ME OF THE PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW ABOUT TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR AN EXECUTION...
SO... RRY...
SORRY FOR ALL OF THE TROUBLE...
HA HA...
HEY, I AIN'T NERVOUS!
THIS IS HIS FIRST MATCH AND HE'S REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT H...
PLEASE EXCUSE US.
BEFORE I SHUT IT FOR YOU!
SHUT YOUR TRAP

HMPH...
YOU DUMB-ASS!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST ACT LIKE A NEW-COMER?
YOU ID-IOT.
W-WAIT A SECOND!
WHA?
I'M GOING TO GO OUT AS NISHI'S SECOND SO YOU JUST QUIETLY SIT HERE AND WAIT.
ALRIGHT, JOE.
GO OUT TO THE RINGS!
MAMMOTH NISHI, YOU'RE UP.
NOW STAY PUT AND TRY TO RELAX!
NO, THAT'S OKAY...
CAN'T I ALSO GO OUT AS SECOND?
HOW'S THAT FAIR? IT'S THE DEBUT OF MY FELLOW BRO THAT I TRAINED, ATE, AND EVEN SLEPT UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY! KNOWING YOU, YOU'D JUST GET RILED UP AND MAKE NISHI EVEN MORE NERVOUS!
DON'T TARNISH THAT NICKNAME OF YOURS!
JUST DO YOUR BEST, NISHI!
FINE.

COME ON, HURRY UP.
I'LL GET TANGE GYM'S FIRST OFFICIAL VICTORY AND MAKE THE PEOPLE WANT MORE BY THE TIME YOU'RE UP!
HAHA, DON'T WORRY.

I'M COUNTING ON YA, NISHI
FIRST VICTORY, HUH...

ONIVA

FEELS GLOOMY.
NOTHING BUT HUSHED SILENCE IN HERE...
SO THIS IS WHAT A PROFESSIONAL'S CHANGING ROOM IS LIKE?
ZZZ
YEAH, AND HE'S ALSO THEIR GYM OWNER.
IS THAT OLD GUY THEIR ONLY SECOND?
OMIYA
IT'S PRACTICALLY A GRAVEYARD!

YOU THINK THEY MIGHT BE UNDERESTIMATING WHAT PRO-BOXING'S REALLY LIKE?
HAHA... THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I HEARD OF A PRO-BOXER HAVING ONLY A SINGLE SECOND.
HE THINKS HE CAN REALLY TAKE CARE OF TWO PLAYERS?
THAT'S SURPR-ISING.
HEH.
SSH.
I WONDER IF YOU'RE DOING AL-RIGHT?
NISHI
..

SITTING HERE ALONE AND WAITING LIKE THIS..
MAKING ME REMINISCE ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS .
IS SOME-HOW,
IT WAS A CHILLY DAY FROM ALL THE WIND...
ON THAT FIRST DAY I STEPPED INTO THAT CRUMMY LITTLE NEIGH-BORHOOD...
ALL THE WAY BACK,
BATH

MEETING THOSE LITTLE BRATS...
MEETING THAT BOXING NUT AT TAMAHINE PARK,
AND MY ENCOUNTER WITH NISHI AT THE DETENTION HALL...
I REMEMBER I TESTED OUT THAT JAB TECHNIQUE I LEARNED FROM THE OLD MAN AGAINST NISHI...
NISHI... I GUESS HE WAS MY FIRST PRACTICE PARTNER, WASN'T HE?
MEETING YOUKO AT THE FAMILY COURT...
AND...

AND ON THAT SPECIAL RING SET UP OUTSIDE, WE BEAT EACH OTHER SENSELESS..
RIKISHI... UNDER THAT BLAZING SUN,
AND NOW, MY DREAM'S TO FACE RIKIISHI OUT ON A PROFESSIONAL BOXING RING.
WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT UNTIL I FIRST MET RIKIISHI...
AHH!
PANT PANT
PANT PANT
PANT...
Y... YEAH...
D-DID YOU LOSE, NISHI!?

JOE, GET ME A WET TOWEL!
AND BRING ME MY BAG AS WELL!
MY EYELID WAS CUT...
AND MY OPPONENT KEPT AIMING AT MY WOUND UNTIL I WAS BLEEDING SO MUCH THAT THE FIGHT ENDED AS A TKO.
NO TIME FOR CHIT CHAT! LIE DOWN.
...
JOE ..
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE...
DON'T JUST SPACE OUT, PUT ON YOUR GLOVES!
YOU'RE UP NEXT!
YABUKI JOE
MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE RING!
A PRO BOXING MATCH WAS A LOT TOUGHER THAN I'D IMAGINED.
A LOT MORE...
DON'T GET ALL GLOOMY ON ME NOW! YOU WEREN'T EVEN ACTUALLY KNOCKED OUT!

TIME FOR YOUR DEBUT!
C'MON, JOE.
I'VE FINISHED THE EMERGENCY FIRST-AID.
SO JUST LIE DOWN UNTIL JOE'S MATCH IS OVER.
GOT IT?
YES...
I'M OFF, NISHI.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE UP FOR YOUR LOSS!
HURRY UP, JOE!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA, PREZ!
THE HOOLIGAN SHOWS UP AT LAST!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, AGITATOR!
WHEN'S HE GONNA COME OUT?
AH.
HE'S COMING OUT!
IT'S THE BRAWLIN' GENERAL!
WE'VE COME HERE JUST TO SEE YOU!

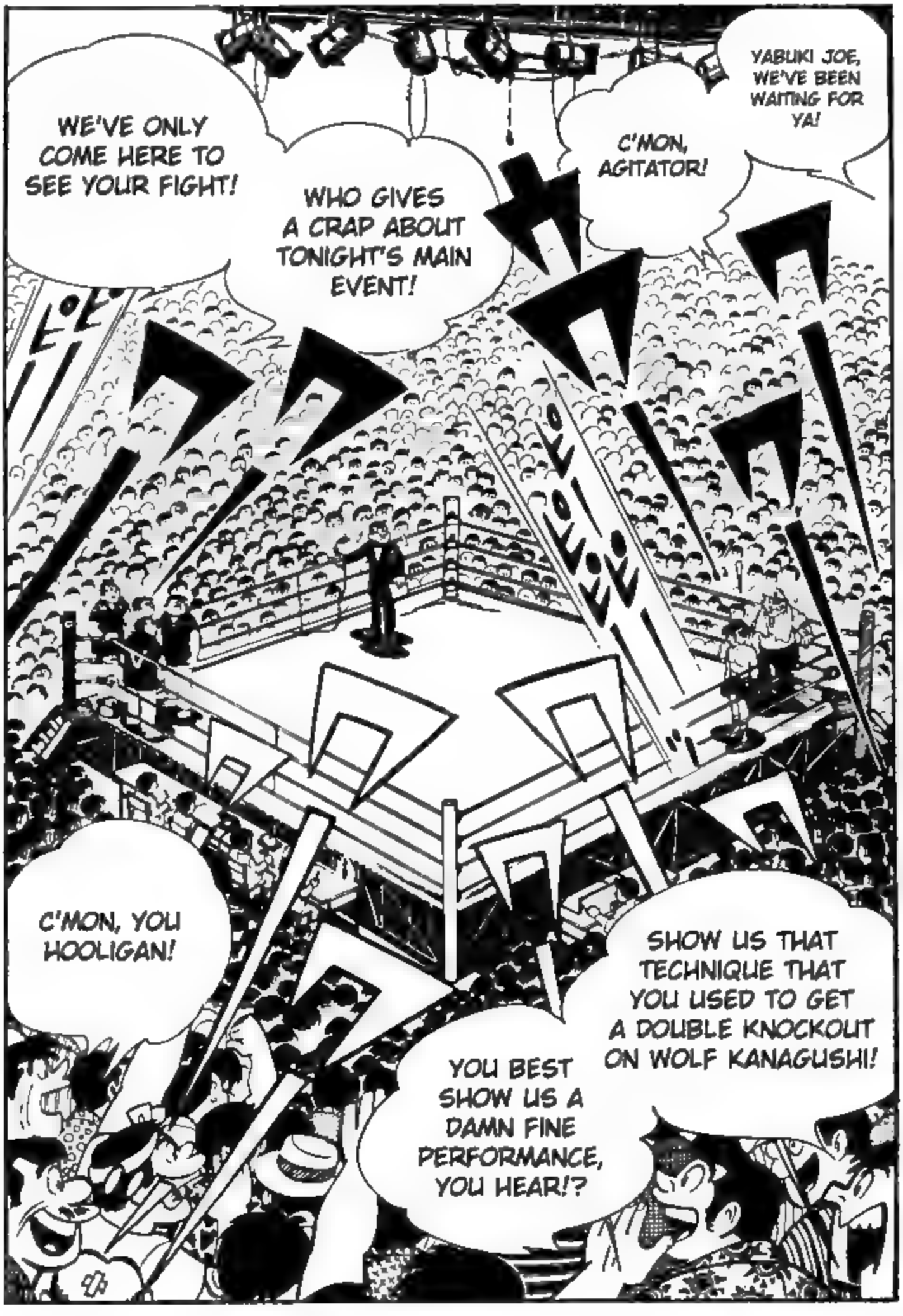
ALRIGHT, GET IN!

DOESN'T LOOK SO TOUGH.
HMM...
THAT'S THE OPPONENT OF YOUR DEBUT MATCH.
IT'S MURASE.
AS I SAID...
UNLIKE YOU, WHO JUST PASSED THE B-TEST, MURASE'S ALREADY EXPERIENCED 4-ROUND MATCHES MORE THAN 10 TIMES. THE DIFFERENCE IN EXPERIENCE BETWEEN YOU TWO IS ENORMOUS!
WHAT'S WITH THAT ARROGANT BOASTING?
WHAT!?
W...
YOU REALLY WERE BORN TO BE A BOXER...
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BOXING THEORIES, YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD AGAIN.
J-JOE...
WITH A CROOKED NOSE LIKE THAT, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HIS DEFENSE IS UTTER CRAP
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY 4-ROUND FIGHTS HE'S BEEN IN IF HIS NOSE LOOKS LIKE THAT.

START OFF THE MATCH RIGHT!
DON'T SLACK OFF, YOU HEAR?
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME FAMILIAR FACES IN THE CROWD!
LOOK OVER THERE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
新人同志の好カード
C'MON BIG BRO!
GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
BROTHER JOE, DO YOUR BEST!
LET'S DO THIS, OLD MAN
HEH... LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T AFFORD TO DISPLAY A BAD SHOWING.

MURASE!
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM HOKUSEI GYM...
WEIGHING AT 118 LBS...
YOU CAN DO IT, MURASE!
KEEP ON EXTENDING THAT WINNING STREAK!
WEIGHING AT 117.5 LBS...
IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM TANGE GYM...
YOUR VOICE IS TOO LOUD!
J-JOE!
OH? THE MAN WITH THE BROKEN NOSE HAS A LITTLE WINNING STREAK GOING?

YABUKI JOE!
WHA?
ACK!
W-WHOA..
WHAT THE

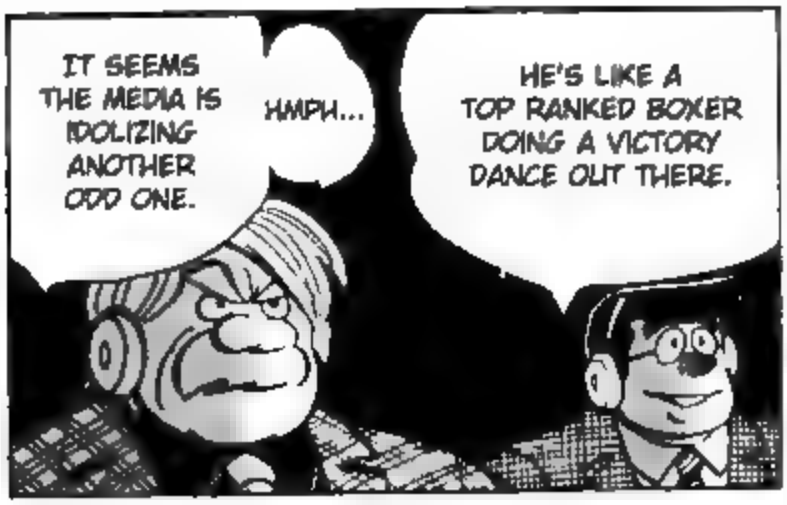

WE'VE ONLY COME HERE TO SEE YOUR FIGHT!
WHO GIVES A CRAP ABOUT TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT!
C'MON, AGITATOR!
YABUKI JOE, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA!
C'MON, YOU HOOLIGAN!
YOU BEST SHOW US A DAMN FINE PERFORMANCE, YOU HEAR!?
SHOW US THAT TECHNIQUE THAT YOU USED TO GET A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT ON WOLF KANAGUSHI!

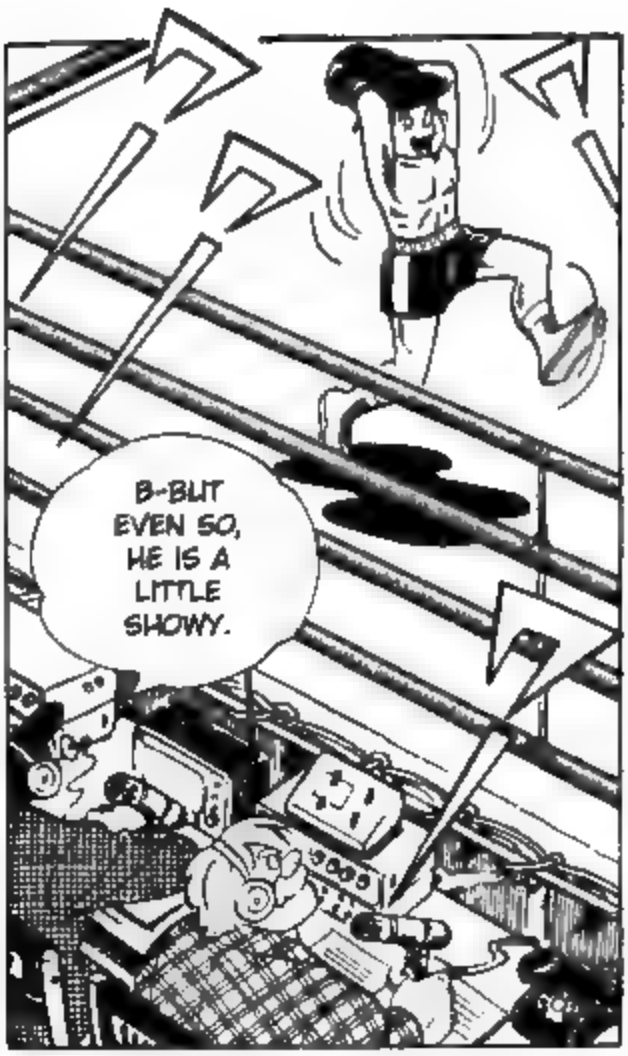
HAS THERE EVER BEEN A DEBUT MATCH THAT ELICITED A LOUDER RESPONSE FROM THE CROWD THAN THIS?
T-THIS IS QUITE THE SURPRISE. WHAT A DEAFENING RESPONSE FROM THE CROWD, THIS IS!
EVEN YABUKI JOE AND HIS COACH SEEM TO BE FROZEN BY THE CROWD'S REACTION!
O-OLD MAN...
JOE ...
DAD...
AMAZING...
AIN'T THIS SOME-THIN'?
WELL...

CAN YOU HEAR THAT? THEY LOVE ME!
UHH... YEAH...
OH RIGHT...
RESPOND TO THE CROWD, WILL YA?
WELL DON'T JUST SPACE OUT, YOU BLOCKHEAD!
HEH HEH...
HA...

LIKE THIS?
OH, OK.
DON'T JUST TURN YOUR HEAD! RAISE YOUR FIST OR SOMETHING!
YOU IDIOT!
THAT SHY ATTITUDE OF YOURS IS KINDA CHARMING!
ALRIGHT, AGITATOR!
SHOW US A GOOD FIGHT, YABUKI!
THEN HOW ABOUT I RAISE BOTH FISTS?
IS GETTING THEM ALL EXCITED...
HA, IF EVEN RAISING ONE FIST ALONE,

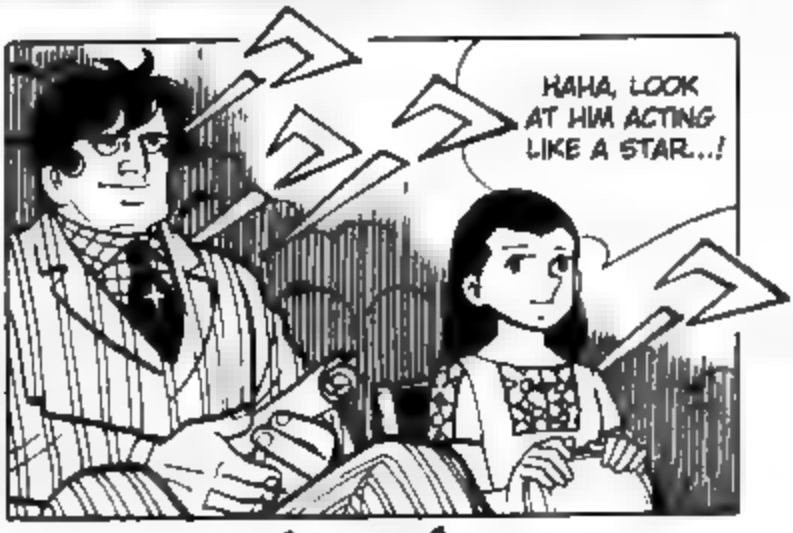
ぴょん
ぴょん
T-THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK TO YOUR CORNER!
HAHAHA!
チュッ
HOW ABOUT THIS?
ぴょん
ぴょん
J-JOE!
ぴょん
YABUKI JOE IS BLOWING KISSES TO HIS FANS IN THE AUDIENCE!
AND THE CROWD IS LOVING IT! THE STADIUM'S LOUDER THAN EVER WITH THE CROWD'S ROARING CHEERS AND LAUGHS!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR!
YOU DUMBASS!
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!
わはは
はははは
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
わはは

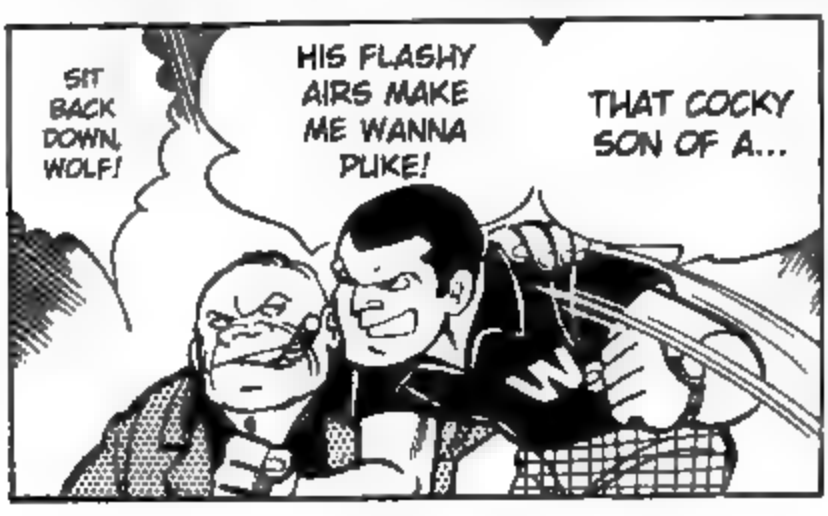

IT SEEMS THE MEDIA IS IDOLIZING ANOTHER ODD ONE.
HMPH...
HE'S LIKE A TOP RANKED BOXER DOING A VICTORY DANCE OUT THERE.


B-BUT EVEN SO, HE IS A LITTLE SHOWY.

AFTER ALL, MURASE IS MORE EXPERIENCED AND HAS BUILT UP AN IMPRESSIVE STRING OF VICTORIES.
IN ANY CASE, I'M SURE THAT MURASE'S PUNCHES WILL PUT A DAMPER ON HIS FLASHY SHOW SOON ENOUGH

WHO CAN SAY FOR SURE AT THIS POINT?
IS HE ACTING OR IS THAT HIS TRUE NATURE...?


HAHA, LOOK AT HIM ACTING LIKE A STAR...!


SIT BACK DOWN, WOLF!
HIS FLASHY AIRS MAKE ME WANNA PUKE!
THAT COCKY SON OF A...

NGHH...

YOU'RE GOING TO QUIETLY SIT RIGHT HERE, YOU HEAR!?
CALM DOWN!
DAMN HIM... I OUGHTA JUST GO UP THERE RIGHT NOW AND. .
I FAILED TO PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE, I SEE HIS CROSS COUNTER EVEN IN MY DREAMS.
EVER SINCE...
NOT A DAY GOES BY WHEN I DON'T CURSE HIM...
SO JUST ENDURE IT FOR NOW!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE HIM BLEED AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
はあ
はあ
はあ
JEEZ, WHAT THE HELL...
YOU CAN CELEBRATE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT AFTER YOU BEAT MURASE.
YOU ATTENTION-GRABBING IDIOT!
I SAID THAT'S ENOUGH!
THE WHISTLE'S ALREADY BLOWN! AND I WANT THE SECOND BACK OUTSIDE OF THE RING!

THEY MAKE AN INTERESTING PAIR!
LIKE PLAYER, LIKE COACH!
HAHAHA!
S-SORRY...
I SAID GET BACK OUTSIDE THE RINGS!
DID YOU NOT HEAR THE WHISTLE!?
I WONDER IF THEY'LL REALLY BE AL-RIGHT...
THOSE TWO DON'T SEEM FOCUSED AT ALL.
AH, THE OLD MAN TUMBLED DOWN FROM THE RING.
AGH...
OWW!
GOT IT
SHOW THAT ROOKIE A THING OR TWO!
MUR-ASE, GO!

C'MON, FINISH HIM...
AS IF HE'D BEEN WAITING FOREVER FOR THE BELL TO RING MURASE TAKEO POUNCES AT HIS OPPONENT TO BEGIN THE MATCH!
AND THE FIGHT HAS FINALLY BEGUN!
AGHH!
A-AGHH!
ATTA BOY!
A FIERCE OFFENSIVE FROM MURASE!
W-WHOA!
BLOW AFTER BLOW AFTER BLOW! YABUKI ALREADY HAS HIS BACK AGAINST THE ROPES!
HE'S NOT EVEN GIVING YABUKI ENOUGH TIME TO RECOVER HIS BALANCE!

CLINCH, JOE, CLINCH!
T-TURN AROUND!
A-AHH
THE AGITATOR YABUKI IS OVERWHELMED!
GET A GRIP!
WHAT'S WRONG, JOE?
MURASE HAS HIM CORNERED!
AND YABUKI IS TRAPPED!
MURASE RUSHES! A LIGHTNING QUICK FLURRY OF PUNCHES!
THAT HURTS...!
OW.
DAMN IT...
AGH...

HAHA, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT MY CRUMMY DEFENSE?
TAKE THIS!
WHY DON'T WE JUST SEE WHICH ONE OF US HAS LITTER CRAP FOR DEFENSE!?
YOU HEARD?
WHA?
WITH A TERRIFYING GLARE, HE PUMMELS YABUKI!
MURASE'S LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON OUT THERE!
BUT YABUKI'S STILL STANDING!
THAT'S IT, MURASE, KEEP POUNDING HIM!
I'LL SHOW YOU THAT THE PRO-BOXING WORLD'S NOT SO EASY ENOUGH...
AS TO GET BY WITH YOUR CRUMMY STREET-BRAWLING TECHNIQUES!

YABUK!...
BROTHER JOE...
AGHH...
CLINCH! HUG HIM!
J-JOE! YOU IDIOT!
REF, ISN'T THAT A ROPE DOWN?
I-I WAS THINKING THAT TOO, BUT...
IT'S AS IF HE'S ENJOYING GETTING PUNCHED...!
HE'S LAUGHING WHILE BEING HIT...
HE'S...
HAHA
HUH?
HEH HEH

WHAT THE HELL IS SO DAMN FUNNY!?
STILL LAUGHING AFTER ALL OF MY PUNCHES...!?
DAMN IT...
HEH HEH HEH...
HE LET HIS GUARD COMPLETELY DOWN...!
YOUKO, LOOK AT JOE'S DROOPING ARMS...
JUST DIE ALREADY!
YES...
THAT'S
PRESI-DENT,
THAT FOOL DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BOXING! IT'S A WONDER HOW HE EVEN PASSED THE B-LEVEL TEST!
HURRY UP AND FINISH HIM OFF ALREADY!
HE'S SWAYING HELPLESSLY UNDER MURASE'S RUSHES!
YABUKI HAS COMPLETELY LET HIS GUARD DOWN!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?

IN ANY CASE, YABUKI'S FACE IS A BLOODY MESS!
BUT HE MANAGED TO KO INAGASHI, THE RUNNER UP FOR THE NATIONALS!
SPEAKING OF HIS B-LEVEL TEST, I ALSO HEARD THAT HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN COMPLETELY DURING THE SPARRING PORTION!
AH! YABUKI'S FACE SEEMS TO BE FALLING FORWARD! WILL HE FINALLY GO DOWN!?
SPURTS OF BLOOD ARE EVEN FALLING DOWN ONTO MURASE'S FACE!
THE FINISHING BLOW!
TIME TO DELIVER...
'BOUT TIME...
ONE, TWO ..

AHH...
AHH...
....

CAME OUT..
IT...
HE DID IT..
レ～～ん
A... AHH...
THE FAMOUS CROSS COUNTER HAS COME OUT!
ド!
ヨル...
HA HA
BACK TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNER!
ズ!
HEH HEH

2 MINUTES AND 17 SECONDS INTO THE 1ST ROUND, YABUKI JOE WINS BY KO!
HOW'S THAT? FINISHED HIM OFF IN ONE BLOW...
J-JOE...
7!
8!
9!
10!
HIS CROSS COUNTER THAT PERFECTLY LURES IN HIS VICTIMS...
. . . .
HIS ...
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT TIME WHEN HE PROVOKED ME...
THAT WAS AMAZING, BRO!
HE DID IT! HE DID IT!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! THIS IS REALLY WHAT MAKES BOXING FUN!
IN REACHING ME!
ONCE AGAIN, YOU'VE TAKEN ONE STEP CLOSER...
AN EXCEL-LENT FIGHT, JOE.

LALALALA!
AHAHA!
OH, NISHI, YOU'RE HERE?
JOE, YOU DID IT...
SHALL WE GET GOING?
WELL THEN
YES ...

DON'T YOU KNOW THE SLIGHTEST THING ABOUT RESTRAINT!?
OW, THAT HURTS!
はははは
HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO THE CHANGING ROOM!
HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE TO SHOWBOAT UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED!?
OWW!
AHAHAHAHA!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
PLEASING THE CROWD DURING THE ACTUAL MATCH IS ENOUGH!
YOU DID IT, JOE...
HEY, NISHI!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THE CROWD'S LOVING IT!

CONGR-ATULAT-IONS.
THOSE WERE SPLENDING DEBUT FIGHTS.
AH...
I MEAN, CLUB OWNER TANGE,
DAN-PEI ...
JOE, SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO WELL...
OH, IT'S WOLF. HOW YOU FEELING?
W-WHY DON'T WE TALK MORE ABOUT THAT ONCE HE CALMS DOWN..
I HAVE TO TEND TO HIS WOUNDS FIRST...
HEH HEH
HOW ABOUT A FIGHT WITH MY WOLF?
NOW THAT YOU'VE WON YOUR FIRST MATCH,
LET GO OF ME!
OWW, THAT HURTS!
STOP WASTING TIME AND HURRY UP!
WE'RE HEADING BACK TO THE CHANG-ING ROOM!
JOE, NISHI!

IT'S JUST ..
I'M NOT TREMBL-ING...
THAT CROSS COUNTER...
THE HELL ARE YOU TREMBLING FOR? IT'S UNSIGHTLY!
YOU IDIOT!
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING. I HAVEN'T SPENT THE LAST 30 YEARS IN THE BOXING WORLD FOR NOTHING.
WOLF.
OUT OF MY HEAD ..
I JUST CAN'T GET THAT CROSS COUNTER OF HIS...
YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO BEAT THAT CROSS COUNTER OF HIS!?
Y-YOU MEAN..
WHAT!?
I'VE FOUND A WAY FOR YOU TO BEAT HIM SENSELESS WITHOUT ANY RISKS...
I'VE FOUND IT.
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME AND IT'LL BE ALRIGHT, YOU HEAR?
YES, BUT KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

HIS CROSS COUNTER WILL LEAD TO HIS VERY DOWNFALL.
THE SAME GOES FOR THAT ONE-TRICK PONY, JOE.
IT'S LIKE IN A BASEBALL GAME WHERE A BATTER'S MOST CRITICAL FLAW IS OFTEN NEAREST TO HIS GREATEST STRENGTH.
YOU SEE,
はっはっはっはっはっ
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU TURN HIM INTO A BLOODY PULP SO YOU JUST WAIT PATIENTLY FOR NOW.
IT'S QUITE PITIFUL, BUT IN ACTUALITY, YABUKI JOE CAN'T REALLY COMPARE TO YOU.
YES, SIR!
LET'S GET BACK TO THE GYM. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU IN MORE DETAIL THERE.
NOW THEN...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?
JEEZ...
ぶっ ぶっ ぶっ…
THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING DURING THAT MATCH!?
WHY'D YOU LET YOURSELF GET HIT THAT MUCH BY MURASE!?
CAN'T YOU EVEN BEAT MURASE WITHOUT TAKING THAT MANY PUNCHES!?
EVEN THOUGH YOUR FACE WAS BEATEN IN!
PUTTING ON AIRS AND SHAMELESSLY SHOWBOATING OUT THERE,
FINE
HA HA..
IT WAS COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS FOR YOU TO LET YOURSELF GET BEATEN TO A PULP TONIGHT!
THAT MOVE'S ONLY FOR WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST HIGHLY SKILLED OPPONENTS LIKE RIKIISHI!
THE HELL ARE YOU GETTING ON MY CASE FOR!? DIDN'T I EXECUTE THAT CROSS COUNTER YOU TAUGHT ME PERFECTLY OUT THERE!?

C-CALM DOWN, COACH...
JUST WHAT KIND OF CHAMPION WOULD GO AROUND GIVING HIS OPPONENTS PITY HITS!?
YOU IDIOT! COULD YOU BE ANY DUMBER!?
I MEAN, IT'D SUCK TO GET KNOCKED OUT WITHOUT EVEN LANDING A HIT.
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'D BE KINDA SAD IF I FINISHED HIM OFF RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME. .
E-EXCUSE ME FOR MY OUTBURST ..
AH...
...
...
THEN LET'S GO HOME!
IF WE'RE DONE PACKING UP,
NOT TO MENTION GETTING A MUG THAT'S ALL BASHED IN
IF YOU CONTINUE TO FIGHT LIKE YOU DID TONIGHT, YOU'LL BECOME PUNCH DRUNK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
IN ANY CASE, YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK AFTER YOUR BODY A LITTLE MORE.
AGHH!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT I GOT IT SO JUST LAY OFF OF ME.

THERE'S A LETTER INSIDE...
FROM WHO?
A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS FOR ME?
YOU MUST BE YABUKI. I'VE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE THIS BOUQUET OF FLOWERS TO YOU.
W-WHAT'S THIS...?
OH
WHO'S IT FROM?
LET'S SEE...
LETTER YABUKI, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST VICTORY SHIRAKI YOUKO-
HMM?
WHY WOULD SHE EVER SEND ME FLOWERS?
IT'S FROM YOUKO.

FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT'S A WASTE OF TALENT FOR A FEATHERWEIGHT BOXER LIKE YOU TO SLIM DOWN TO A BANTAMWEIGHT
WHY'RE YOU GOING THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO SLIM DOWN LATELY?
LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING FIRST
YOU WANT TO FIGHT YABUKI NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T YOU?
WHY DID YOU SEND THOSE BOUQUET OF FLOWERS TO HIM?
THINK OF IT AS FUNERAL FLOWERS.
THAT'S WHY I SENT THOSE FLOWERS
I KNOW.
I JUST FEEL THAT THERE'S SOME KIND OF DESTINY TYING THE TWO OF US
I
SURE THING, MISS.
PUT SOME MORE PEDAL TO IT!
WOULD YOU MIND SPEEDING UP A BIT?
AND STOP TALKING LIKE THAT, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
THAT'S ENOUGH
A LITTLE TOO FLASHY FOR A FUNERAL, IF YOU ASK ME
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ドスン
ドス

NOW GO HIT THE SHOWERS.
THAT'S ENOUGH TRAINING FOR TODAY.
GOOD.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PANT PANT
PANT PANT

HOW'S YOUR WEIGHT COMING ALONG?
NISHI ...
I'VE SLIMMED DOWN 3 KILOS THIS WEEK.
AH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY ONE-EYED MOM!
ALRIGHT, EAT UP.
OH...
YOU'LL HAVE TO ENDURE THE DIET FOR A LITTLE LONGER.
3 KILOS? HMM, THAT'S A LITTLE SLOW.

ゴトン
HMM ...
THANKS TO YOU, I'M EXACTLY AT THE BANTAM-WEIGHT LIMIT.
HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH AS OF NOW?
JOE,
STOP JOKING AROUND, YOU IDIOT ..
YOU'RE THE TYPE TO GAIN WEIGHT EASILY IF YOU EAT A LOT.
SORRY NISHI, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAR WITH ONLY THAT MUCH FOR NOW
. . . .

THE 3RD OF NEXT MONTH.
YEAH.
HAS THE NEXT MATCH,
BEEN DECI-DED?
WHAT ?
HEY, OLD MAN ...
THE OPPO-NENT?
WHO'S ...
AND AFTER THAT!?
AGAINST TOOYAMA JUNZOU.
YOUR NEXT MATCH AFTER THAT WILL BE ON THE 31ST OF THAT SAME MONTH.
WHAT ABOUT AFTER THAT?
SAWAI ....?
AND JOE'LL FACE SAWAI SEIJI.
NISHI'LL BE UP AGAINST GONG YOSHI-MURA,
AND WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME FIGHT AGAINST RIKIISHI!?
WHEN'S MY MATCH AGAINST WOLF!?
AFTER THAT WILL PROBABLY BE NOGUCHI KOUICHI.
NUMA-KAWA HIRO-SHI.

IN FACT, I'D FIGHT HIM TONIGHT IF I COULD!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? I'M FINE WITH FIGHTING HIM EVEN IF IT WERE TOMORROW!

AND CONSISTENTLY WIN IN POINTS, I'LL THINK ABOUT LETTING YOU FIGHT HIM.

WHEN YOU FIGHT A GOOD MATCH,

IS NOTHING TO FEAR, HUH...

YABUKI'S CROSS COUNTER.

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO JUST SIT HERE AND TAKE THAT!?

TAKE A LOOK AT THE KIND OF BULLSHIT WOLF'S SPEWING!

JUST LOOK AT THE PAPERS!

BUT THAT'S ONLY PROOF THEY'RE JEALOUS OF YOUR NEWFOUND POPULARITY.

I'M WELL AWARE OF WHAT WOLF AND OOTAKA'S BEEN GOING AROUND SAYING TO THE PRESS.

DON'T BE HASTY

UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, JUST IGNORE THEM AND KEEP FIGHTING MATCHES AT YOUR OWN PACE.

JUST LEAVE THEM BE AND THEY'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME IMPATIENT AND COME CHALLENGING YOU.

GOT IT?

Yabuki's cross counter is nothing to fear.
As Wolf Kanagushi enjoys his 6 match winning streak, he sets his sight on Yabuki! His goal is to become the world champion as soon as possible.

AGITATOR JOE'S CROSS COUNTER LANDS ANOTHER OHKO!

SAWAI SEIJI DROPPED IN JUST TWO ROUNDS

NUMAKAWA HIROSHI TERRIFIED BY YABUKI WHO LEAVES HIMSELF UNGUARDED.

ANOTHER KILLER CROSS COUNTER

AN EXPLOSIVE CROSS COUNTER LAYS TOOYAMA JUUZOU ON THE RING FLOOR

THE ROOKIE WOLF KANAGUSHI SHOWS GLIMPSES OF A BRIGHT FUTURE AS HE ONE-SIDEDLY DEFEATS INOMATA SHUUJI!

THE TECHNICIAN WOLF SHOWS OFF HIS 9 PUNCH COMBO! TONOYAMA'S ARMS AND LEGS LEFT LIFELESS.

HMM...

WOLF KANAGUSHI SILENTLY CHARGES!

WOLF KANAGUSHI, AIMING FOR THE WORLD

CALM AND COMPOSED, HE FLASHES A V FOR VICTORY.

WOLF WISHES TO GRADUATE FROM 6 ROUND MATCHES IF EVEN A SECOND SOONER.

HE SAID HE WANTS TO TALK...

OOTAKA INVITED US.

I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO...

IT'S NOT AS IF HE'S GOOD ENOUGH OF A BOXER THAT I CAN LEARN SOMETHING JUST FROM WATCHING HIM.

WHY'D YOU DRAG ME HERE TO WATCH WOLF'S MATCH?

W-WHY DOES HE NEED TO BRING SO MANY OF'EM..?

LOOK AT HIM LEADING ALL THOSE REPORTERS OVER HERE AS SOON AS THE MATCH ENDS.

THANKS FOR COMING.

AH, CLUB OWNER TANGE AND YABUKI JOE.

REPORTERS, I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR A SCOOP! HAHAHA..

oof
oof
oof

THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO START BY BRINGING THIS MANY REPORTERS!?
W-W-WHA... WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS...?

THANKS FOR INVITING JOE AND I TO WOLF'S MATCH.

I-IN ANY CASE,

SO I'M SURE THIS MANY REPORTERS IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO GET SO NERVOUS ABOUT.

HAHAHA. YOU TWO HAVE BEEN ON THE PAPERS QUITE A LOT RECENTLY, HAVE YOU NOT?

I CAN'T LET WOLF FIGHT 8 ROUND MATCHES WITH THE WAY HE IS NOW.

OH NO, NO...

I'M SURE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HE'S QUALIFIED ENOUGH TO START FIGHTING 8 ROUND MATCHES.

IT'S ALMOST HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S STILL JUST A 6 ROUND FIGHTER.

AFTER TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT HIS PERFORMANCE, I NOW SEE THAT HE'S QUITE AN EXCELLENT TECHNICIAN.

I'M SURE A GREAT GYM SUCH AS YOURS THAT HAS ALREADY PRODUCED 2 WORLD CHAMPIONS COULD SURELY PRODUCE ANOTHER CHAMPION.

I SEE... YES, VERY GOOD, INDEED.

THE REASON WHY I INVITED YOU AND JOE HERE TODAY WASN'T JUST SO WE COULD FLATTER EACH OTHER.

CLUB OWNER TANGE,

THANK YOU, BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.

AFTER ALL, OUR REAL GOAL ISN'T TO HAVE HIM ADVANCE TO 8 ROUND MATCHES, BUT TO WIN THE BANTAMWEIGH WORLD TITLE. HAHAHA.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RUSHING WOLF AND END UP CHURNING OUT A MEDIOCRE BOXER.

OHHH!

AH...

EVERY JAPANESE BOXING FAN IS EAGERLY WAITING FOR THAT FATEFUL MATCH WHEN WOLF WILL FINALLY FIGHT YABUKI. SO WHY DON'T WE SET THINGS IN MOTION ONCE AND FOR ALL?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I WISH TO HAVE HIM FIGHT YABUKI NO MATTER WHAT.

IN OTHER WORDS, FOR WOLF'S LAST 6 ROUND MATCH,

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THOSE WORDS...!

SO THEY'VE FINALLY COME FOR US.

JOE ...!

HMM?

SO I'D SAY NOW'S THE BEST TIME FOR YOU TWO TO FIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOUR GREAT ACCOMP-LISHMENTS CAN'T BE DISMISSED BY ANYONE ANYMORE.

YABUKI, I SEE THAT YOU'VE GROWN QUITE TALENTED AS WELL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK ME TWICE, I'M ALWAYS R..

WELL? DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA?

WHY DON'T WE HAVE THE WINNER OF THE FIGHT ADVANCE TO 8 ROUND MATCHES?

AND IF I COULD PROPOSE ONE MORE THING,

. . . .

HEH HEH...

I'D COME SEE THAT FIGHT EVEN IF MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY ON THAT DAY!

C'MON JOE!

NOW THIS IS A FIGHT THAT'LL REALLY RILE UP THE FANS!

THE WINNER'LL BE ABLE TO ADVANCE WHILE THE LOSER WILL BE STUCK AS JUST A 6 ROUND BOY!

HA! AIN'T THIS EXCITING!

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, JOE!

WHY YOU GOTTA BE SO SULLEN!?

C'MON, OLD MAN! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!

WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT TIME WHEN WOLF WAS DISGRACED...

HEH HEH... WITH THIS FIGHT,

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET WORKED UP.

DON'T YELL AT ME, BOY.

WELL!?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PLANNING TO REFUSE!

WHAT, YOU THINK I'D TAKE BACK AFTER WHAT I JUST SAID?

AHHH!

W-WAIT, JOE!

YOU BET YOUR ASS YOU'RE ON!

MAN, I'M SICK AND TIRED OF WAITING! ALLOW ME TO ANSWER IN HIS STEAD!

.....

I'LL BE THE ONE TO ACCEPT YOUR CHALL-ENGE!

IT WAS ME WHO HAD TO CHALLENGE YOU IN OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, BUT THIS TIME...

IN ANY CASE, THIS MATCH IS ON!

PROJECT BITE ME! SCANLATIONS
ALONG WITH HOX

MANGA: ASHITA NO JOE, CHAPTER 61

TRANSLATOR: HOX

SCANNER: AN ANONYMOUS PERSON

CLEANER: WRIGHT AND MAHJONG WHORE ANGE

TYPESETTER: NINA

QUALITY CHECK: YAZAWA AND HOX

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NOT FOR SALE OR REFERENCE

IF FOR WHATEVER DUMB REASON, YOU BOUGHT THIS TRANSLATION, PLEASE KNOW YOU'RE GETTING RIPPED OFF AND ARE AN IDIOT. I WOULD GO DEMAND MY MONEY BACK IMMEDIATELY. THIS SCANLATION IS NOT TO BE USED FOR REFERENCE. IF YOU SHOULD HOST THIS ON AN ONLINE READER, I ONLY ASK YOU KEEP THIS CREDITS PAGE.